

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

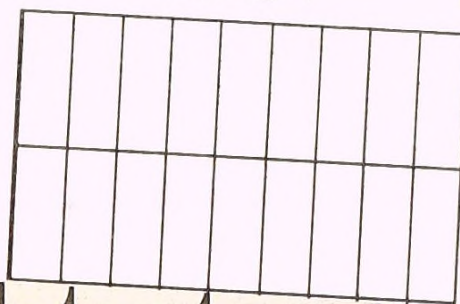
Vol. 117, No. 11
March 17 - 23, 2005

The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus

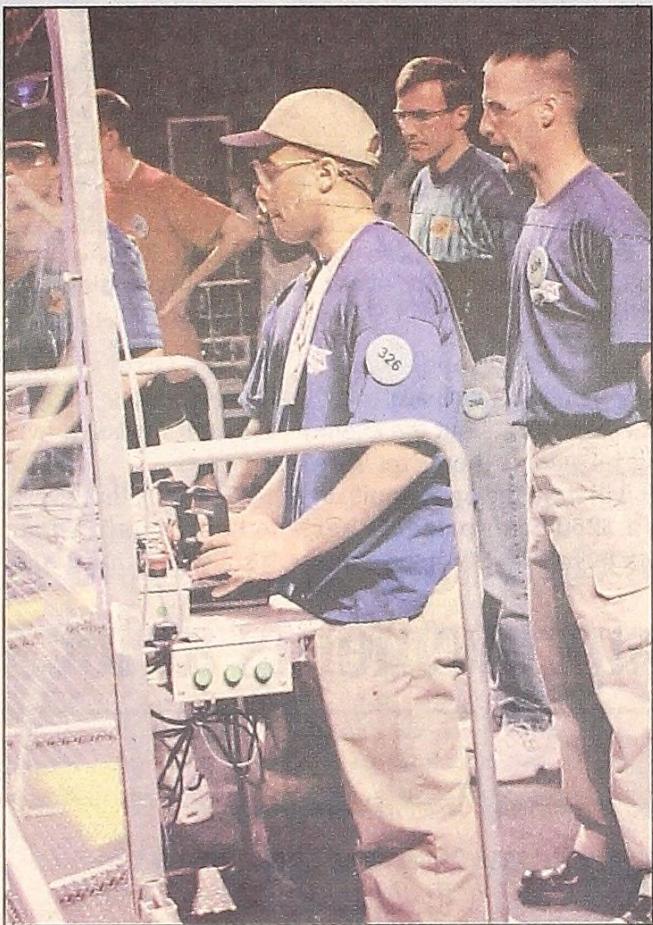
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Think it! Design it! Built it!

The Romulus High School "Extreme Eagles" competed at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition at Eastern Michigan University last weekend. The team – which built their robot under the guidance of engineers from the GM Powertrain Plant in Romulus – was one of 50 high school teams that used ingenuity and technical skills to make a robot that can play games and perform tasks. Robots competed in a large corral at the university operated by remote control. The goal of the FIRST program is to get students excited about careers in technology. The Extreme Eagles motto this year is "Think it! Design it! Built it!" The school has taken part in the competition in partnership with GM since 1999.

11 candidates to vie for city council seats

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Eleven city council hopefuls have obtained nominating petitions for seven available seats in the general election in November.

Five incumbents – William Wadsworth, Mike Prybyla, William Crova, Charles Miller and Leroy Burcroff – have obtained petitions to hold onto the seats they have occupied for the past four years. Councilwoman Debbie Romak announced two months ago that she would challenge incumbent Mayor Alan Lambert for his spot.

Mayor Pro-tem Randolph Gear has not yet obtained a petition, and it is unclear whether he will seek another four-year term. Gear did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

Five challengers – Harvey Crout, Alan Hinman, John Barden, Edward Buczowski and Nema White, have also secured petitions for the seats.

Barden, an executive assistant to County Executive Robert Ficano, said he is not unhappy with the current state of affairs in the city, but thinks he could bring a unique perspective to the board.

"I think it's time for some new blood," he said. "I have experience in government and in business that I think will be compatible with what's happening in the city right now. I'm at a time in my life when I want to give back a lit-

tle."

But city council incumbents have had an unusually good run in Romulus. In the past 20 years, only two incumbent candidates lost their seats to newcomers – once in 1987 and again in 1993.

"I think we keep incumbents because they know more about what is actually facing the city than another person," said William Crova, who has been a councilman for 10 years. "But you still have to work hard to maintain the position, even when you're an incumbent."

Wadsworth – a councilman for 20 years – is the longest continuous serving council member in history. He said he would like to continue some of the positive things that have happened in the city.

"We've been going through budget cuts at the state level, and in a way, we've been lucky that we have not had to cut services," he said. "In fact, we've expanded them. We've added to the fire department, the police department and kept the same number of people working in DPS (Department of Public Service)."

Crova said the biggest challenge facing the city during the next four years – no matter who is sitting on the dais in November – is going to be maintaining a positive balance sheet. "We're in a growth phase, with new development," he said. "Trying to keep the city's fiscal

See Election, page 3

Barth teacher honored by county

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Keeping the minds of easily distracted fifth graders engaged has been an all-consuming passion for Gerilynn Kline.

The teacher, who makes sure

32 11- to 12-year-olds learn the basics of reading, writing and math at Barth Elementary School, says preparing students for the rest of their education – not to mention playing an active role in preparing them for the workplace – is hard work but has

it's rewards.

This year, Kline's efforts were recognized by Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), which named her the 2005 "Elementary School

See Teacher, page 3

Area African-American students sought for 'Olympics of the Mind'

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus students looking to better themselves and increase their chances of attending colleges need to look no further than the Western Wayne County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) ACT-SO program.

ACT-SO, which is an acronym for the NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, is a program that was developed to showcase the achievements of African American students attending high school. The program is a yearlong enrichment program that culminates in a local and national competition

called the "Olympics of the Mind," where students compete for awards and scholarships totaling more than \$50,000, according to Ray Mullins, director of the program and chairman of the Wayne County NAACP.

Some of the activities participants will take part in include group and individual projects in the arts and sciences. Often times, a mentor from the world of business or education will mentor students.

Mullins said the program is an important tool in helping students achieve their dreams.

"We're trying to help as many kids as we can through this program so they can see what is

See Schools, page 3



Comeback kids

The Romulus Eagles basketball team pulled off a surprise victory on Friday when they beat the home team of Ypsilanti High School, the Ypsilanti Braves, 75-69, in the Class A Regional contest. At the worst point in the game, the team was behind by 15 points, but came back to dominate the game in the last half. Here, the team basks in the glow of victory in with Nate Oats (second from right). From here, it's onto the state quarterfinals against Detroit Pershing High School. For the story, see page 10.

Business group hosts party tonight

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Even those who are not Irish can enjoy the festivities at the Bayou Grill in Belleville today.

The Belleville Central Business Community (CBC) is sponsoring the annual St. Patrick's Day Party from 5:30-8 p.m. tonight.

The event, which began as a small mixer several years ago, has grown into a city tradition. It is the fifth year that the CBC will host the dinner and the third year it will take place at the Bayou Grill, according to Madelyn Pelligrini, president of the Belleville Central Business Community.

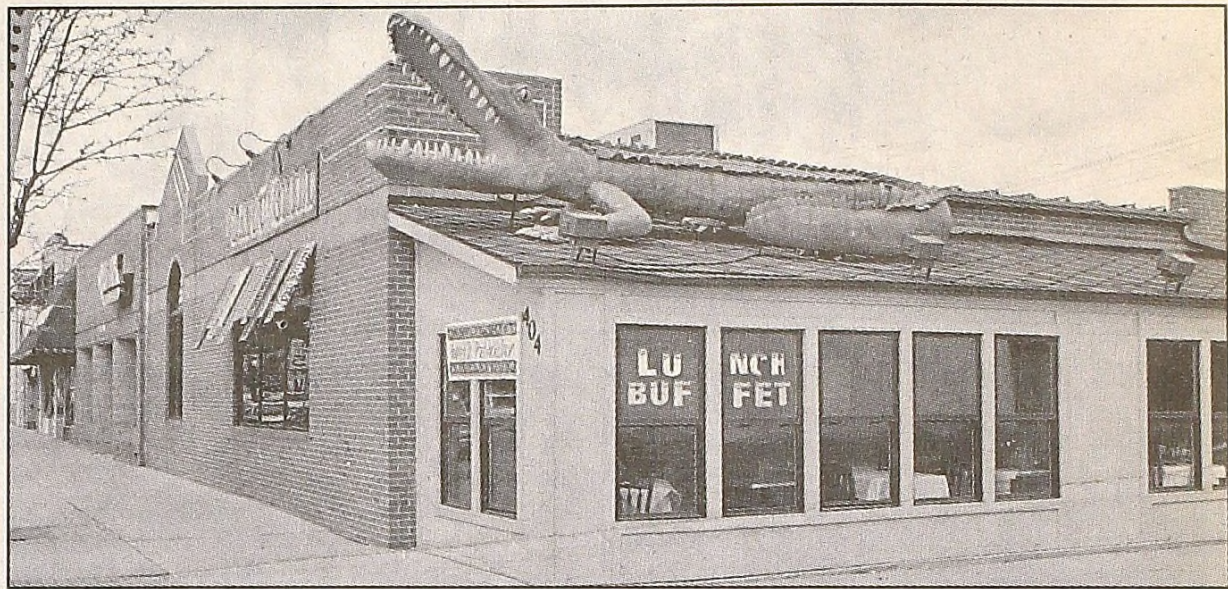
Pelligrini said she hopes the dinner draws a big crowd, espe-

cially since it is a fundraising event for the organization.

"Our group does many community service projects and, in order to keep the organization going, we hold events such as this. The proceeds go back into each event to make them better for the next year because we want to keep doing what we're doing," she said.

"We're hoping for the crowd to take up restaurant capacity, but if not, we want to at least sell 100 tickets," Pelligrini added.

For \$10, adults can feast on Irish stew, a traditional Irish meal made with lamb, potatoes, celery, carrots, herbs, spices and fresh cream, or another Irish classic: corned beef and cabbage. For \$5, children can enjoy a special menu



The Belleville Central Business Community (CBC) invites people both young and old to come out to their annual St. Patrick's Day event, which will take place from 5:30-8 p.m. tonight at the Bayou Grill in Belleville.

of fried chicken tenders with fries or spaghetti marinara.

The best part about the event, Pelligrini said, is the prizes. One adult will have the opportunity to win a \$250 cash prize. Other prizes from The Styling Center,

Marti's Gifts and Flowers by Katherine Rose, along with other area businesses, will also be awarded.

"It seems that everyone wants to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day. It's a great crowd and time had

by all," said Teresa Jurica from the Bayou Grill.

Tickets can be purchased at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, The Styling Center, Stoner and Associates, city hall or the Bayou Grill.

Truck raffle will help fund improvements at local animal shelter

Andrea King
Staff Writer

To help save some the homeless pets in the community, The Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (FMAR) has partnered up with Atchinson Ford in Belleville to give away a two-year, 30,000 mile pre-paid lease on a 2005 Ford F-150 4X4 extended cab truck, valued at \$38,000.

"It's got all the usual goodies and the proceeds are going to a good cause: the animal shelter," said Pete LaFramboise, co-founder and president of FMAR.

Tickets are \$25 and will be on sale until the day of the raffle. The winning entry will be drawn at 1 p.m. on March 24 at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course, during the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce general membership and mini expo.

If fewer than 1,000 tickets are sold, the raffle will turn into a 50/50 drawing with a maximum prize of \$5,000. Proceeds will go toward facility improvements at the shelter including a restroom, an outdoor cat kennel and other improvements, LaFramboise said.

"Right now we have no restroom and we are quickly outgrowing our space," he

Area fitness clubs now collecting food for needy

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Curves for Women fitness centers in Belleville and Romulus are working out to help the less fortunate.

Throughout the month of March, the 30-minute fitness and weight loss centers will join the Curves International Inc. "Curves Food Drive" to generate food for the needy.

According to Aubrey McNally, co-owner of both Curves locations, the food drive takes place every year. This is the third year of participation for the Belleville and Romulus centers.

"Last year we collected more than 2,000 pounds and this time we want to beat that. So far we have more than 900 pounds of food collected," he said.

All donations from the Belleville Curves will go to the First United Methodist Church. Donations from the

said.

In the future, FMAR hopes to transform the 1,300 square foot facility into an 8,600-square-foot pole barn with a clinic, training area and offices. Currently, they have 12 kennels for dogs and 11 kennels for cats, and they have helped more than 160 animals find new homes with the help of the public, he said.

"We would like to put in 24 kennels for dogs, a separate room for cats, an exam room, a grooming room and more storage space, but that will take some time and a lot of money," said LaFramboise.

The shelter is also asking for other donations and volunteers, which they are always in need of, according to LaFramboise.

"Volunteers, cat litter, canned dog food, dry cat food and kitten food are things that we always seem to be looking for," he said.

Romulus Curves will go to the Helping Hands Organization, McNally said.

To reach their goal, Curves is encouraging people to donate by waiving the \$149 enrollment fee for a bag of groceries. Any non-perishable food items can be dropped off Monday through Friday at the Belleville Curves, located at 307 Industrial Park Dr., or the Romulus Curves, located at 36015 Goddard Road during regular business hours.

"Curves International collected more than 4,000 tons and between both locations here, we collect a ton, too. We filled their (First United Methodist) cupboards full last time and we want to do the same this year," said McNally. "Plus, it helps promote fitness as well."

For more information on how to contribute to the Curves food drive, call the Belleville location at 734-697-2000, or the Romulus location at 734-941-0900.

It's got all the usual goodies and the proceeds are going to a good cause: the animal shelter.

Pete LaFramboise

medical attention, shelter, spay and neuter services, vaccinations and adoption services. They are currently providing a low-cost spay/neuter program in hopes of decreasing the overpopulation of animals in the community, according to LaFramboise.

"Adoptions run hot and cold. Closer to the holidays and birthdays, people want to adopt more animals. It really just depends," he said.

For more information, to donate, volunteer, or to purchase a ticket, call 734-461-9458.

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Staying fit

Members of the Romulus Schools Physical Education Department helped students learn more about good health on Saturday at the Family Health Day. The teachers are: (first row) Gayle Milspaugh, Jennifer Johnson, Kellee Kubany, Tim Jager, Sheila Stasak, Patricia McCollum, and Mark Woodson. In the second row are Bill Baum, Keith Brothers, Jason Balcom and Anthony Holyszko.

Recreation, Town Hall Meetings are tonight

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Mayor Alan Lambert and other city officials are hoping the public will share what they would like to see at the proposed Romulus Recreation Center at a public workshop scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

The recreation center is proposed at the current site of the former Overhead Crane Co. facility at Wayne and Northline roads. Lambert said public involvement is important as the process of planning a facility moves forward. The city has been operating the parks and

recreation program at Romulus Community School buildings for the past several years. Lambert has said he would like to break ground on a new facility this year. The project is funded through Tax Increment Financing Authority dollars, which means taxpayers will not pay additional taxes for the recreation center.

Romulus residents will have another opportunity to air their concerns with Lambert at a Town Hall Meeting tonight at the Whistle Stop Diner from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information on either event, call Lambert's office at (734) 942-7571.

Romulus briefs

Dingell to reintroduce ERA

Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) announced in Washington D.C. Tuesday an effort to reintroduce the Equal Rights Amendment. The amendment, if passed would guarantee women the same rights as men under the U.S. Constitution. The co-sponsors of the initiative are Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney of New York and Congressman Rob Andrews of New Jersey. Both appeared with him when the announcement was made. The ERA passed Congress in 1972 but lapsed in 1982 when it fell three states short of ratification.

School board election deadline looms

City Clerk Linda Choate would like to remind residents that the deadline to vote in the May 3 school board election is April 4. Anyone who needs to register to vote in the election must do so by close of business that day. To register, residents can go to any Secretary of State location or stop by the city clerk's office at city hall. The clerk's office is open weekdays until 6 p.m. For more information, call (734) 942-7540.

Church hosts fish fry dinner

St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus will host fish fry dinners at the church for the last time on March 18 while supplies last. Fish, shrimp, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw and bread are on the menu. Two, three and one-piece dinners are available for \$8, \$7, and \$4, respectively. All shrimp dinners are \$8. Children under 3 years old eat free. Carry outs are available if orders are placed before 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. The dinner will continue from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The church is located at 37200 Neville St. For more information, or to place and order, call (734) 941-5056.

Library week celebrated

The Romulus Public Library will celebrate National Library Week with three events that promote reading for children. On Tuesday, April 12, children can enjoy listening to a story courtesy of Ronald McDonald. On Wednesday, the library will explore the differences in birds during the "Rainbow feathers" lecture. And on Thursday, April 14, Mike Boynton and his cloth friends will perform at a health-themed puppet show. All events will take place at the library at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the Romulus Public Library at (734) 942-7589.

Schools - Scholarships offered to keep minority students in school

FROM PAGE 1

possible," he said. "ACT-SO, the seeks to promote positive self-esteem, academic and artistic excellence, positive interaction between our youth and the adult professional community. Furthermore, ACT-SO encourages more African-American youths to pursue higher education."

Though the number of African American high school students and other students of color that seek higher education has increased dramatically in the past 20 years, recent studies

suggest that progress is still needed.

A 2003 study of college attendance performed by researchers at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tenn. in conjunction with the American Council on Education found that the number of minority students enrolled in college more than doubled in the past 25 years. In 2000, 4.3 million African-American, Hispanic, Asian American, and American Indian students attended college, up from about 2 million in 1980.

But the study also noted that in 1980, 31.8 percent of white

high-school graduates age 18 to 24 were enrolled in college, compared with 27.6 percent of African-Americans. In 2000, the number of high school graduates grew by 12.4 percent to 44.2 percent, while African American student enrollment increased by only 11.8 percent.

ACT-SO is a program that can help bridge the gap, NAACP officials hope.

The program is open to students in the following communities: Belleville, Canton Township, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Lincoln Park, Sumpter

Township, Plymouth, Redford, Taylor, Romulus, Wayne and Westland. The branch is also opening up the competition to students in Ecorse, River Rouge, and Monroe County.

The NAACP is still accepting applications for the program. Student applications are due in the NAACP office by March 31.

The local competition will take place on Saturday, April 16.

For more information, call Mullins at (734) 485-7515, or send him an e-mail at attyray-mullins@provide.net. Also, visit the NAACP web site at www.naacp.org.

Election - School board member seeking first term on city council

FROM PAGE 1

outlook at a stable level is going to be difficult."

There will be one at least new member of the council. Because elected officials cannot seek two seats, Debbie Romak, who hopes to become mayor, will not be able to keep her council seat if she is unable to defeat Lambert this

fall.

White - who was elected to the Romulus Community School Board two years ago - would also have to give up her seat on the school board if she were elected to the city council, said City Clerk Linda Choate.

Attempts to reach Hinman, Crout, Buczkowski and White were unsuccessful.

No one has obtained a petition for the office of city clerk or city treasurer, Choate said.

Fifteen candidates must turn in petitions to trigger a September primary election, a prospect that doesn't always happen, Choate said.

The deadline to submit petitions for any city elected office is 4 p.m. on June 21. A minimum of

100 hundred verifiable signatures is required to reserve a spot on the ballot. The primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 13. The general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Romulus residents can register to vote at the city clerk's office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Teacher - Recognizing differences in learning styles helps students

FROM PAGE 1

Teacher of the Year." She will receive her award at the Wayne County RESA Awards Night scheduled to take place in May.

"Receiving the reward is a huge honor," she said. "It's very exciting - and surprising."

Kline was selected for the award for implementing new and innovative strategies in the classroom that enable students to learn more effectively, said Dr. Marlene Davis, the superintendent of Wayne County RESA.

Kline said helping students achieve their goals starts with treating them like adults. Students in her class maintain weekly planners, keep up with classroom activities by reading a newsletter written by Kline, follow core values for classroom conduct put into place by the teacher, and receive "Barth Bucks" rewards that can be

redeemed for school supplies, eating lunch with Principal Diane Golka or being the teacher for the day. She also uses peer mediation to resolve student conflicts in the classroom.

Golka said Kline provides a nurturing environment for students. "Gerilynn takes an active role in coaching students towards academic excellence and encourages their involvement in extracurricular activities," she said. "Gerilynn is an exceptional instructor who stresses teamwork, responsibility, accountability and integrity."

A teacher at Barth for six years, Kline has always taught fifth grade. Before she joined Romulus Community Schools, she taught elementary school students at St. Peter and Paul in Detroit. She says the difference between public and Catholic schools is quite noticeable.

"We have a lot of resources

here that we didn't have in the Catholic system," she said. "We have three computer labs; there's so much technology. There's more support from the staff, and this really benefits students."

Kline began her teaching career after earning a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. She later pursued her master's degree in education from Marygrove College.

Much of her personal time is spent with students, too. She recently designed a haunted house for the school, and often volunteers to supervise after-school events. She also takes time out to mentor student teachers from Eastern Michigan University. Kline also helped revamp the district English and language arts curriculum and was a finalist for the NASA Explorer Grant, which would meld the science lessons with

research that is under way at NASA and allow students to communicate with astronauts and other scientists.

Creating programs that make learning accessible to all students is something Kline said she thinks about often.

"Every student is different," she said. "We do a lot of role-playing and projects where students actually create something. This helps meet students' needs."

Kline said receiving the award - and helping her school win other accolades like the 2005 Blue Ribbon Awards and two State of Michigan Golden Apple Awards with other Barth teachers - is an honor. Still, it's not what keeps her returning to the classroom year after year.

"I hope that all of my students learn as much as they can before they leave," she said. "I want them to remember me as a teacher and a friend."

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 28,
2005 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak Wadsworth.
Nays None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-062

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 14, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-063

3A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendations of the Building Department and proceed with the demolition of the structures and clearing of debris on Demolition List 04-02 unless proper repairs are completed and a final inspection is issued subject to conditions within the time frame as stipulated at the Public Hearing held on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time and to grant request to let bids for a demolition contractor on the following properties: 11132 Delano- Garage, 36723 Goddard Road - Garage, 29333 Hildebrandt-Commercial Building; 28275 Smith -Residential Structure, 28301 Smith - Residential Structure & Garage; 29807 Smith -Residential Structure, 29505 Ecorse Road - Commercial Building, and 6416 Wayne Road - Commercial Building; (excluding 5876 Wayne Road).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-064

4A1. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Margaret Hance.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays-None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-065

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff, to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-15:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
101-2990-729.93-01	TransfersOut-Beverly Rd.	156,795	(156,795)	0
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
101-0000-390-00-00	Fund Balance	1,238,750	156,795	1,395,545
FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Major Streets				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
202-4290-742.93-01	TransfersOut-Beverly Rd.	0	156,795	156,795
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
202-0000-390.00 00	Fund Balance	1,593,981	(156,795)	1,437,186

To re-appropriate funds for the Beverly Road construction Bond Payments eligible to be paid by Act 15 funding through the Major Streets Fund.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-066

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-16:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
101-4120-741.77-39	Drains-Engineering Fees	0	5,000	5,000
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
101-0000-309.00-00	Fund Balance	1,235,440	(5,000)	1,230,440

To cover engineering invoices for Drains-Underground Detention and other miscellaneous engineering charges regarding drains.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak Wadsworth.
Nays -None.

Motion Camed Unanimously.

05-067

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment

04/05-17:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Major Streets				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
202-4210-742.77-39	Major St-Engr.Fees	30,000	55,000	85,000
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
202-0000-390-00-00	Fund Balance	1,437,186	(55,000)	1,382,186

To appropriate funds for 2005 Major Road paving Project #MS-0281 for estimated Design Cost.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays-None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-068

5D. Motion by Miller, supported by Crova to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-18:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Major Streets				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
202-4230-742.73-05	Winter-Mte.Operating	100,000	12,000	112,000
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
202-0000-309-00-00	Fund Balance	1,382,186	(12,000)	1,370,186

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Local Streets				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
202-4330-743.73-05	Winter-Mte.Operating	100,000	18,000	118,000
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
203-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	194,075	(18,000)	176,075

To appropriate funds for additional road salt due to unusually high levels of snowfall this season.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays-None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-069

5E. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to authorize the Mayor to enter into a six (6) month employment contract with Ms. Kathleen Trent as Public Relations Director for the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - Miller, Romak.
Motion Carried.

05-070

5F. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to grant authorization for JRV Management, Inc. to assist the City with the program development and to prepare a market and business summary for the proposed recreation center, at a cost not to exceed \$6,500.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-071

6A1. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 04/05-13 and 04/05-14, introduced at the meeting held February 14, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-072

6A2. Motion by Romak supported by Miller to introduce an ordinance to amend Chapter 38-Appendix B, Romulus Employees Pension Plan, Section 38.5.5(c) to reduce the involuntary \$5,000 cash-out amount to \$1,000 to avoid the new “automatic rollover” rule adopted under the 2001 Economic Growth and tax Relief Reconciliation Act.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-073

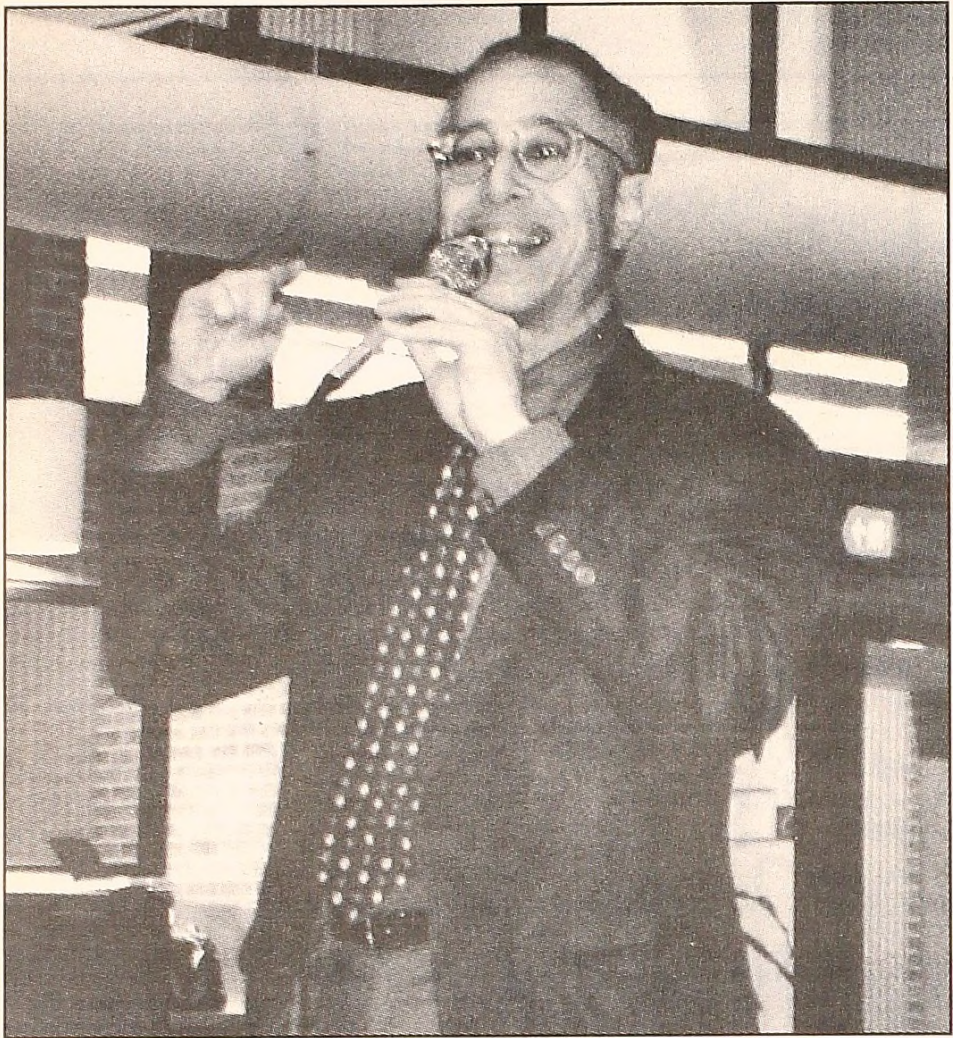
6A3. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to concur with the Property Disposition Committee and let bids on the following excess city-owned property:
007-01-0934-000 017-01-0080-000 020-03-0020-000
017-01-0081-000 020-02-0015-000 020-99-0018-000
020-02-0017-000 020-03-0010-000 020-99-0019-701
020-03-0014-000 020-03-0017-000

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

05-074

6A4. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to schedule a budget workshop on April 11, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. and April 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. for Council’s review of the proposed 2005/2006 City Budget and to schedule the public hearing May 2, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.



Expert advice

Last week, residents crowded the women's resource room at the Belleville campus of Wayne County Community College to hear noted diet expert and medical doctor William Nagler speak about the benefits of weight management. Nagler offered several diet tips and explained the chemical reasons for weight gain and weight loss. Nagler is a noted expert in the weight loss field and has published several books on weight management. He provided each participant with several sample diets. This week, in the continuing series of health speakers at the school, noted plastic surgeon Manish Gupta, M.D. will speak about several mid-life procedures. There is no charge for the lectures which have been filled to capacity.

Foundation awards grants to local schools

The Educational Excellence Foundation (EEF), which serves the Plymouth-Canton Community School district, has given 10 schools an \$8,130 award.

The EEF reviews grant applications three times during the school year. In November 2004, EEF awarded the district \$15,065. Each year, the EEF supports projects that impact the education of more than 10,000 P-CCS students.

The group is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works in partnership with the district to fund curriculum-based projects.

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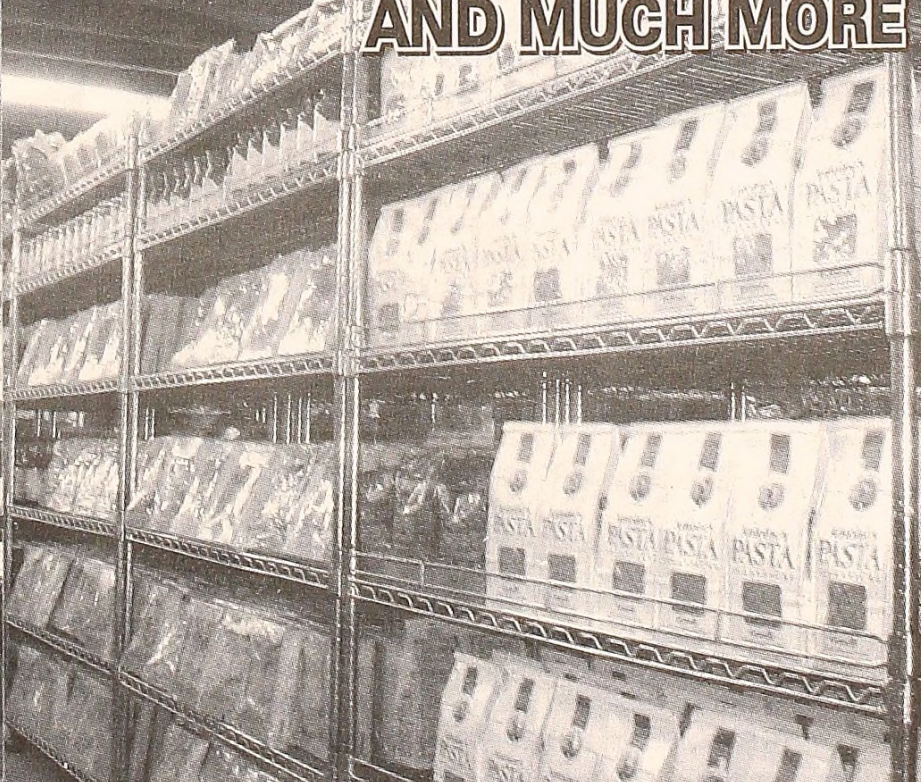
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OPINION

A good deal

Officials in Northville Township will soon face an interesting question: should they trade 15 acres of land for about 150 acres of land?

The concept, proposed by developer Gary Sakwa, was brought up a few months ago and township trustees discussed it informally in a study session last Thursday. It involves a swap of 15 acres of land at the corner of Sheldon and Five Mile roads – which is owned by the township – with more than 150 acres of land on the former site of the Detroit House of Corrections (DeHoCo). Sakwa owns that. The only stipulation to the switch is that Sakwa would like the 15 residential acres at the busy Sheldon-Five Mile corner rezoned for commercial use. The township board of trustees will take another look at it in another study session tonight.

At first glimpse, it seems like a no-brainer. There aren't too many transactions that immediately give you a 10-fold return on your investment. Township trustees have had a great deal of success, lately, in getting such returns, exchanging small parcels here for larger parcels there.

There are a few issues to consider, though.

The biggest is that the property abuts other residential uses. These aren't run of the mill homes, either. They're big and expensive. The property owners most likely bought them knowing that the nearby land was also zoned for more residential use and would not exactly welcome a commercial development in their back or side yards. And you can fit a lot of commercial property on 15 acres of land.

Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said, if the deal happens, township officials would make certain that any such development would take into account the people who live nearby. Given the attention that the planning commission and board of trustees has shown to other developments, and how they impact the community as a whole, that's a pretty strong statement. The fact that they've taken such a cautious approach – hosting at least two study sessions before they make a decision – is a good sign, too.

The situation is certainly one worth exploring, as long as the result isn't an overbuilt corner that contributes to a too-busy intersection, or a negative impact on the quality of life for the nearby residents. The devil will most likely be in the details.

Plan could benefit all

The concept of Frontier Park, a new 60-acre recreational facility proposed by a group of citizens and sports boosters in the City of Westland is certainly an intriguing idea.

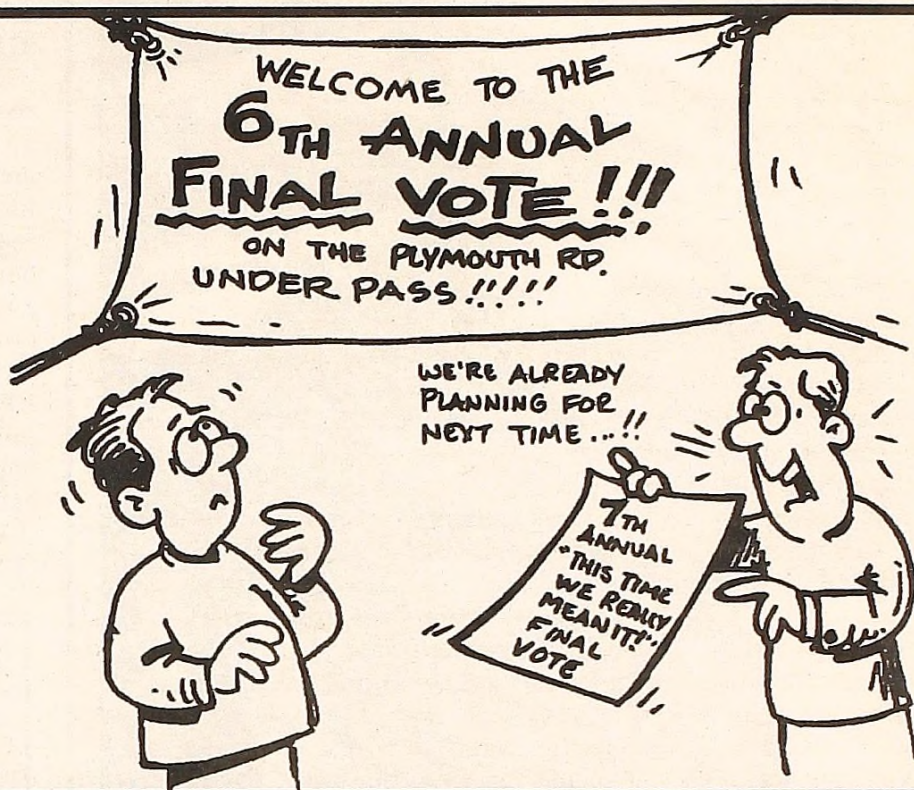
Their vision includes many amenities that would be welcome in the city: a new indoor ice arena with two sheets of ice; an indoor swimming pool; eight baseball fields, including one designed for children with special needs; three soccer fields, one of which will have a removable air dome; picnic shelters, paved trails and more.

The group of volunteers, called Citizens for Frontier Park, also pledged to help provide upgrades at existing city parks to ensure that no neighborhoods are left out of the effort, either.

Those who have developed this plan have done many things right. They've made it broad enough to appeal to virtually every sector of the community. They've researched, as best they could, the potential costs of the construction of the facility and come up with a few alternatives to pay for it. They've started the whole thing at a grass roots level to drum up support before pitching it, formally, to the Westland City Council, in hopes that officials would jump on board and place the issue on the ballot this year or pledge support in other ways.

No one has debated the value this would have in the city. The prob-

See **Park**, page 7



Local road is all the rage

"Ford Road is impossible to go east and west on. It's a hazard," said State Sen. Bruce Patterson at a public hearing last week.

He spoke as a citizen during a House Transportation Meeting in Canton, designed to gather input on a five-year road plan for Michigan.

Patterson, a Canton resident, knows all about the problems on Ford Road and so should I. I grew up in the township and have watched as the road has gradually transformed into the clogged four-lane roadway it is today.

Even so, I found myself driving down it on a recent Saturday morning, heading east. I was in no particular hurry – that was my rationale for braving the bumper-to-bumper, slow moving traffic. It was a sunny day, warmer than it had been and I was in the mood to take it easy.

Well, at first.

It might've only been about 10 minutes later when I reached where Ford, Haggerty and I-275 mesh into a virtually stalled lot of impatient drivers, but it felt more like 20. I was in the wrong lane, to boot, and I knew there was no way any of the other drivers would let me in to exit down the freeway.

Instead I decided to push on forward, thread my way through the traffic in front of Sam's Club and Wal-Mart and hope everything eased up after that.

That's when a towering black Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) suddenly moved from the left turn lane to a spot directly in front of me – with no signal or any indicator I could detect.

I did what anybody else would have done: I hit the brakes, I honked. I muttered a curse or two – under my breath, of course, because my 4-year-old son Henry was in the back seat.

Apparently the driver took

exception to my response, though, because when I pulled up next to him, he flashed me a well-known, non-verbal hand sign of communication.

I stared, incredulous. The offender was angry at ME?

My surprise grew when I realized it was none other than Patterson, himself. There was an awkward moment when we recognized each other and then he was on the freeway ramp and I was creeping along on Ford Road.

Now, to be honest, I had the same response planned for the driver of the SUV, hidden in front of the driver's seat in an attempt to hopefully prolong Henry's innocence a few more years. I had some words at the tip of my tongue, too, and they were cer-

See **Driven**, page 7

Yep, it really is 'March Madness'

Who else thinks this is a tough time to go to—and stay—at work?

You've got March Madness coming up, opening day at the 'CoPa' is right around the corner, and the weather is—hopefully—getting better.

I'm a huge sports fan, have been since the Tigers were good (don't let the babyface fool you, I'm not THAT young). Nobody except my roommates and friends from MSU know how many classes I've skipped (sorry, Ma) to watch NCAA tournament games, Tigers games, or anything else that could pique my interest more than a lecture about the Civil War or a journalism assignment.

As I type this at my desk, it's taking longer than it probably should, due to the fact that I have to keep clicking on ESPN.com to check scores of conference tournaments. (I didn't know Michigan had a BASKETBALL team—kidding!)

For the past couple months, I've been debating on whether or not to take "power" lunches every Thursday and Friday for the next month until the tournament is over. I decided against it because if I did, I'd probably be taking power lunches every day after that.

It's not as easy to skip work as it is to skip class. I don't know everything, but I'm slowly grasping this whole "adult" concept.

I can't spend all my money on CDs and Taco Bell. I can't stay out all night and just show up to work whenever I feel like it. And I can't—as excruciatingly painful as it will be—skip work to watch Minnesota play Southern Illinois next week.

One of the major aspects of being an adult is prioritizing. In college, I could skip class to watch basketball, I just had to make up the assignments later. There is no making up work in "The Real World." In the real

world, your boss gives the work to someone who really wants it, not to someone who thinks they can do it when they feel like it.

It took six months from the time I graduated until I got my first job offer, so I realize good, solid career opportunities don't come along every day. And I like my profession. If I get bored in a meeting, I have plenty of paper and ink to draw with. At a recent meeting, I almost seeded the entire NCAA field (I know, I need help).

Hopefully, everyone has a set list of priorities that allow them to get things accomplished and have fun, too.

With the way the economy is, I wouldn't do anything to screw up what I have.

What's more feasible as a month-long illness: appendix or liver??

Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Bank Shot

by Jason Carmel Davis

JOURNAL

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Park

FROM PAGE 6

lem is, however, that there are simply too many unknowns at this point in time, which council members rightly pointed out during a study session Monday night.

One of the large questions that needs to be answered is the cost of the land, both to purchase and develop.

There are wetlands issues to deal with, probably some old dumping sites that need to be cleaned up, too, and trying to piece together a large parcel from several small ones is always an iffy proposition, particularly when private property owners are involved.

Another question is the ongoing funding of the expanded operation.

Even so, it's our hope that the Citizens for Frontier Park take the advice of the city council, and not count their concerns as a defeat. It's still a worthy goal and we hope they continue to push for the facility, answer these and other questions and fully refine their proposal, build up additional support and someday get the project off the ground.

Attorney defends Inkster detective

To the editor:

I am writing in response to an article in your March 3 story, "Detective Subject of Accident Investigation." Inkster Police Detective Anthony Abdallah is the subject of your article – and the target of a criminal investigation by the Inkster Police command staff. Our law firm is proud to represent Detective Abdallah during this criminal investigation, and I want to give your readers a balanced view of the Department's numerous (and anonymous) allegations against him.

As you read this, Detective Abdallah has been suspended without pay and benefits – and without any formal charges being laid against him – for over one month. He finds himself in the unenviable position of being publicly assailed, accused, and berated by both his Department's command staff and a plaintiff's attorney – both of whom are acting upon their own

self-serving interests.

Unnamed "police contacts" and "police sources" have gone to great lengths to paint a one-sided picture of Detective Abdallah. Not coincidentally, these same "sources" have also tried to distance the Department's command staff as far as possible from the threat of a pending lawsuit.

Unfortunately, this has become a common tactic in many police departments. The "command staff" would have your readers believe that the entire responsibility for submitting, tracking, and storing police reports resides with the lowest ranks in the Department. If reports about a shooting in Inkster have gone missing, the "command staff" denies any responsibility – and finds it much easier to publicly disgrace a veteran street Detective who responded to the scene.

The term "command," however, also means "to direct" and "to control." Your readers should know that when a prisoner in the police station is discovered to be injured, the responsibility for

checking into the injury rests squarely upon the command staff. And ensuring that the submitted reports don't get lost also is the responsibility of the command staff – not a street Detective. Those simple duties were obviously ignored in this incident.

It is the responsibility of the command staff – not a street Detective – to ensure that each day's reports match up to the dispatch cards, and that the incident dispositions for the same time period match the reports. A properly supervised reporting system ensures that missing reports are caught and quickly located within 24 or 48 hours – not months later when a Freedom of Information request arrives from a plaintiff's attorney.

It is the responsibility of the command staff – not a street Detective – to ensure that the Department's Record Section is not losing reports that have been submitted on paper or by computer. And (surprise) it's also the responsibility of the command staff to fix the malfunctions and

restore the system to reliability. It is not acceptable to simply yank in the lowest ranking officer and criminally accuse him of failing to fill out reports that the Department has lost or can't locate.

Too many police departments have equated the term "command staff" with "retired at full pay." And the simple threat of a lawsuit – real or perceived – sends the "command staff" scurrying for cover, and deciding who is to be sacrificed as a scapegoat for the administration's own failings.

Detective Abdallah has been suspended without pay for over one month, and publicly berated, because the Police Department's command staff refuses to acknowledge its own serious deficiencies in the Department's reporting and record retention systems. The Department's street officers – and the citizens of Inkster – deserve much better.

Mark A. Porter
ALONZI, PORTER and
ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
Pontiac

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 1, 2005

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, and Trustee Jahr. Absent and excused: Treasurer Budd and Trustee Rochowiak. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Deputy Director Public Safety – Fire Division Smolen, Lt. Brooks, Facilities Director Ross, Secretary Ireland and an audience of five (five).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Payne seconded to open the public hearing to receive comment on the special assessment roll for the purpose of installing and maintaining streetlights in the public road right of way in the Mission Pointe Subdivision. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated this is a program DTE Energy Company provides that is used to install and maintain street lighting. This is the second of two actions by the Board of Trustees to establish a Special Assessment District for installing and maintaining overhead street lighting for 156 residential lots in the Mission Pointe Development. Before the Board is the resolution approving and spreading the assessment roll over the benefited parcels of land within the development to be collected on a yearly basis via the property tax bill. The initial capital outlay will be \$40,665.53 to be paid by the developer. The initial annual amount of \$12,991.80 is to be spread among 156 homes with an initial annual fee of \$83.28 to be billed and collected with the winter property tax.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of February 14, 2005 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2005 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Bruce Ross, Director of Recreation and Facilities for Van Buren Township, has been elected Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA). MRPA is a statewide association of parks and recreation professionals and agencies.

Bennett Arboretum Master Plan Presentation and Town Hall Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 8, 2005 at the Northville Township Hall. The plan, developed by students from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, will highlight a new vision for the Arboretum and outline restoration efforts.

Wayne County Department of Environment will sponsor a Household Hazardous Waste Collection for Wayne County Residents on Saturday, April 16, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center. For more information please call 734.326.3936.

Supervisor received e-mail from a resident recognizing Supervisor King and Megan Munch for dedication to the community. He attended the Valentines Day Daddy-

Daughter dance with his nine (9) year old daughter and they had a terrific time.

Thank you to the Van Buren Police Department for donating the appearance of McGruff the Crime Dog at the 2004 Walk To Cure Diabetes. Over 14,000 people participated in the walk and helped the Junior Diabetes Foundation raise a record setting \$1.8 million for research.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Herman moved, Payne seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-10, approving the special assessment roll for the purpose of installing and maintaining streetlights in the public road rights of way in the Mission Pointe Subdivision. Carried.

Herman moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-11, support for the establishment of a Michigan Health Care Commission. Carried.

Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the purchase of new computers and all required software and licenses for the Township's computer server room as outlined in Treasurer Budd and Joseph Ferris' memorandum dated February 23, 2005 in an amount of \$37,413.65 and approve a budget amendment to transfer monies from the Landfill Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund to cover the expense. Carried.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the lot split of parcel V125-83-093-01-0018-003, part of Lots 18 and 19 Edison Lake Estates Subdivision, in accordance with the Parcel Division Board memorandum dated February 18, 2005, specifically noting items one through six. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Herman moved, Hart seconded to approve the March 1, 2005 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the January 2005 Public Safety Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Open registration begins on March 7, 2005 for summer day camp. First session runs June 13, 2005 – July 15, 2005 and the second session runs July 18, 2005 – August 19, 2005. Four camps will be held, Tot Camp for ages 4 – 6, Day Camp for ages 7 – 10, Tween Camp for ages 11 – 12 and Club Teen for ages 13 – 15. For further information please call 734.699.8921.

Marshmallow Drop will be held Saturday March 19, 2005 with a rain day of March 20, 2005. The first drop will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Quirk Park Softball Field. Prior to the drop there will be an all you can eat pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the Community Services Gym. Cost is \$5 per person. For further information please call 734.699.8921.

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at Township Hall for residents of the Robelle Acres Subdivision. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a neighborhood proposed street lighting special assessment.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: March 17, 2005

Top of the class

Enrollment increases by 400% at local community college campus

Andrea King
 Staff Writer

Students throughout western Wayne County are discovering one of the best ways possible to obtain a college education, without paying college housing and at tuition fees they can afford.

So many have discovered the Belleville campus of Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD), officials have reported a 400 percent increase in student enrollment, an unheard of phenomenon in the educational community.

According to Randall Miller, executive vice-chancellor at WCCCD, several factors have contributed to the highest student enrollment in school history, including increased program offerings and improved student facilities and services.

“The fact that we have made a focused effort here to grow the college, the response to needs and the resources all factor in,” he said. “We are constantly increasing programs. For example, we have partnerships with businesses for the workforce side, such as Visteon, Ford, GM and different police departments and we are always adding more.”

“Now, more than ever, there is a greater demand for higher education,” he added.

Miller said that the district strategy for the growing student enrollment has paid off by focusing on the educational needs throughout the entire region.

In doing so, the school now has more than 7,500 students—a district-wide enrollment increase of 16 percent, according to the college.

“We recognize that higher education is a life-long learning process,” said Miller. “More adults are taking classes along with young people because they want to retool in their career. Compared to other Michigan colleges, we are certainly on the high end of growth in credit and non-credit classes.”

In a time of economic downturn, Miller said their college classes also remain one of the lowest priced in the state.

“WCCCD students are the least likely to be able to afford higher education, so we recognize price sensitivity,” he said. “We work to make financial aid available and provide a greater amount of access. That’s why we’re here. We know people are in dire need of training to develop job skills to support them in a productive career.”

Other factors that have contributed to the increase in student enrollment include a more comprehensive continuing education division, more workforce development partnerships, enhanced customer service and extensive training and professional development for the staff.

“Something magnificent is happening here at WCCCD,” said Curtis Ivery, chancellor of WCCCD. “This 57 percent increase in credit enrollment, and 400 percent increase in total enrollment at the western campus has surpassed all previous projections and confirms we have delivered on our promise to revitalize the campus. It is reflective of our ongoing efforts to respond to the needs of the district and deliver the highest standard of educational opportunities for all our students.”

When Ivery came to WCCCD almost a decade ago, the western campus had 32 students and was

Airport receives \$5.3 million grant

The Wayne County Airport Authority recently announced they will receive a \$5.3 million federal grant for improvements to the Willow Run Airport in Van Buren Township.

According to a news release from Michigan U.S. Senators Carl Levin (D-Detroit) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing), the funds will be used to construct a taxiway and improve runway safety. Willow Run Airport is just one of the 10 other airports to receive federal funding.

“As millions of people fly into and out of Michigan’s airports every year, we must continually update and improve facilities,” said Levin. “The funding will help ensure the continued safety of our air travelers and will support additional improvements to our airports.”

“We greatly value this demonstration of trust and will continue to strive to achieve even greater heights in providing services region-wide that contribute to the growth and betterment of a stronger society.”

Curtis Ivery

not operating for a period of time. He was determined to turn the college into an indispensable educational resource for Wayne County, he said, and he embarked on a growth strategy that would service the educational needs of the western Wayne area.

“We greatly value this demonstration of trust and will continue to strive to achieve even greater heights in providing services region-wide that contribute to the growth and betterment of a stronger society,” said Ivery.

WCCCD is also optimistic that the growth will continue well into the future.

“This area is hardly tapped out yet,” said Miller. “The population is growing and we have a great opportunity to partner up with other businesses. We’re also building on to the western campus to add

flexible classroom space and a distance learning center.”

The groundbreaking for that 40,000-square foot multi-purpose educational center is planned for June and the \$20 million project is scheduled for completion in October of 2006.

The building, to be constructed along Haggerty Road, will include an Internet café and a multipurpose room, along with classrooms.

“The new facility will allow us to be completely responsive to the training needs of the private sector in western Wayne County,” Ivery said.

The Belleville campus is expected to be the largest of the five locations of WCCCD within the next seven years.

Officials project that more than 12,000 students will attend the western campus.

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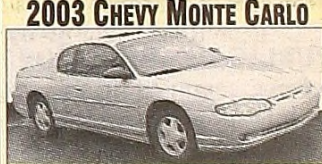
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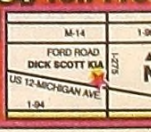
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OBITUARIES

BLAIR, Ramona

Ramona E. Blair, 75, of New Boston, died March 5.

Among her survivors are her daughters, Barbara A. (Hank) Chmielecki of Charleston, S.C. and Gloria J. (Josphe) Ballog of New Boston, five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Mrs. Blair was a member of the Belleville Moose Lodge, the American Legion Post 200 in Taylor and the Democratic Club.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Father Alexander Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church officiating.

WILHELMI, Alice M.

Alice M. Wilhelmi, 78, of Van Buren Township, formerly of Westland, died March 7.

Among her survivors is her husband of 56 years, George H. Wilhelmi; children, Susan Wilhelmi of Belleville, Donald (Vicky) Wilhelmi of Canton Township and Krystal (Brown); a brother, Steward (Dina) MacDonald, and a grandson, David Wilhelmi.

Funeral services were at Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville where Mrs. Wilhelmi was a member, with Father John R. Hagen officiating.

Interment was at Trinity Memorial Garden in Belleville.

Arrangements were entrusted to the

David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

BROWNING, Wilburn A.

Wilburn A. Browning, 66, of Mio, died March 11.

Among his survivors are his wife, Patricia A. (Pfeiffer) Browning of Mio; sons, Richard A. (Margie) Browning of Chocowinity, NC, Paul D. (Ronda) Browning of Crumpton, MD and Anthony B. (Jenny) Browning of Romulus; daughters, Sheila K. Hall of Belleville, Diana L. (Ted) Steffke of South Lyon and Margaret L. (James) Harville of Romulus; a brother, Hershel Browning of Romulus; sisters, June (Jim) Mabelitina of New Boston and Shirley Cummins of Taylor; one grandchild, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Browning was retired from the United States Navy. He was a member of the Honda and Suzuki motorcycle clubs and the National Rifle Association.

Both Masonic and Military funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

SEBOROWSKI, Irene

Irene Seborowski, 82, of Belleville, died March 10.

Among her survivors are her daughters, Jean (Ronald) Norman of Belleville and Patricia Seborowski of Goschen, OH; a brother, Robert Smitt of Romulus; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

dren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Father Alexander Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

PETROWSKI, Edward Jr.

Edward Robert Petrowski, Jr., 72, a life-long resident of Belleville, died march 10.

Among his survivors is his daughter, Terry E. Vance of Fort Myers, Fla.; sister, Jane Copp of Ypsilanti; half-sisters, Deborah Streitar and Sherri Petrowski; nephew, Richard "Rick" Petrowski, several nieces and nephews; many great-nieces and nephews, and a granddaughter, Carleigh F. Smith of Fort Myers, Fla.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Otisville Cemetery in Van Buren Township.

STENMAN, Fay

Fay Joan Stenman, 73, of Ypsilanti, died March 11.

Among her survivors are her sons, John (Angela) Stenman of Peck, and James (Reba) Stenman of Belleville; daughters, Lori (Ronald) Bandy of Scottsville, Ky and Linda (Joseph) Carrier of Wayne; brothers, David (Teresa) Brown and Carelton Brown, both of Pennsylvania; a sister, Betty Nanni of Pennsylvania; several nieces and nephews, and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Grace Baptist Church in Belleville where Mrs. Stenman was a member, with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

Continued from page 4

05-075

6A5. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to concur with Fire Chief David Allison, designating Harrison Road, south of Ecorse Road as a no-parking fire lane on both side of Harrison Road under Chapter 12, Article III, specifically, Section 12-33 Authority and Criteria, Number (1) Letter J. "No Parking Fire Lane" Southbound Harrison South of Ecorse Road Northbound Harrison South of Ecorse Road.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-076

6A6. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to grant authorization for City Clerk, Linda Choate, to sign and submit the required HAVA Grant Application retroactive to February 18, 2005, for the optical scan voting equipment and related election management system software consisting of 19 tabulators, and to authorize the Clerk to order three (3) additional units to be used back-up equipment at a cost of \$4,492.00 each plus shipping.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-077

6A7. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff for the City of Romulus and the School District enter into the consolidated Elections Act Agreement in accordance with statute, MCL 168.642 as amended, effective January 1, 2005, mandating City, Village and Township Clerks administer all Special and Annual School Elections for and on behalf of the School District.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-078

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 05-04 in the total amount of Eight Hundred Forty Six Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$846,527.70).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain- Crova
Motion Carried.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 28, 2005.

Linda R. Choate,
City Clerk

Publish: March 17, 2005

THE CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the following projects and service/s.

Bid 04/05-24 2005 Merriman Road Enhancement - City Project

Removal of existing walks, drives, curb, pavement where indicated. Installation of concrete sidewalk, pedestrian lighting and underground power distribution, irrigation, signage, topsoil, grading, landscaping and drainage improvements along Merriman Road Right-of-Way and median from I94 to Ecorse Road.

Bid 04/05-25 Merriman Road Enhancement - MDOT Project

Landscaping along Merriman Road Right-of way between I94 & Ecorse Road on either side of the road and in the median. Work to be performed includes planting of trees, shrubs, ground cover, flowers & sodded lawn.. Funds from the Federal Highway Transportation program will partially fund this project. As a result contractors are required to comply with Federal Labor Standard Provisions, Equal Opportunity Requirements and Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements.

Bid 04/05-26 Merriman Road Landscape Maintenance Contract

Contractual Services Contract for the maintenance of the landscape improvements to be located along the Merriman Road Right-of-way and median from I-94 to the intersection of Ecorse Road.

Qualified firms wishing to submit bids can obtain forms on or after February 25, 2005 upon deposit of a \$20.00, which is non-refundable, from:

Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, Inc.
300 E. Cady St.
Northville, MI 48167

Please call (248) 347-7010 before picking up plans and specifications or with questions concerning the scope or general outline of each of the bids.

Proposals must be on forms furnished by Landscape Architect and be accompanied by Bid Bond or Certified Check equaling five (5%) percent of the proposal submitted.

Submit proposals in sealed envelopes and return them to the *City Clerk's Office* no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2005. All bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud.

PROPOSAL ENVELOPES MUST BE SEALED AND CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE

BID NAME & # _____

11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan, 48174

The City of Romulus reserves right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any informalities therein, in accordance with MDOT 2003 Standard Specifications.

Publish: March 17, 2005

SPORTS

Regional champs Romulus overcomes Ypsilanti, 75-69, in final minutes of play

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Ah, sweet redemption.
How good it must feel to redeem yourself, overcome the odds, right the wrong, and to just knock down the chips when they're stacked against you.

How good it must feel to be the Romulus Eagles varsity basketball team.

It took 30 minutes, but they defeated the Ypsilanti Braves, 75-69, in the Class A regional finale Friday night hosted by Ypsilanti Lincoln High School.

It was only the second time in the school's history that the Eagles have reigned as regional champs. The last time was in 1986 when Terry Mills led Romulus to a state championship.

It was more than a chance for the Eagles to redeem themselves from a paltry first half, where they trailed by as much as 15 points at one time.

No, this was revenge. Ypsi upset the Eagles last month in a regular season game that, in the end, robbed them of at least a

share of the conference title.

But this was much sweeter.

"Our goal coming into this season was to win the league championship, district, regional and state championship," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "They (Ypsilanti) cost us the league. Will we take a regional

Our goal coming into this season was to win the league championship, district, regional and state championship.

**Romulus Coach
Nate Oats**

championship over a league championship? Of course, but they cost us that first one."

The League championship came down to a mega Romulus-Belleville contest that ended with Belleville on top. However, the Eagles redeemed themselves when they defeated the Tigers in

the district championship game on March 4.

Romulus senior point guard Jarret Smith finally proved himself to all his critics. Smith signed his national letter of intent to play ball for the University of Michigan on a full scholarship. But instead of accepting praise he's done nothing but receive criticism this year - especially on his ability to hit big shots and step up in big games.

That is until he hit the biggest shot of his career against the Braves on Friday.

With 2:18 left to play in the game, Smith hit a triple from the top of the arc to put the Eagles up, 68-67. It was their first lead of the game. He came back with a huge block on Ypsilanti's Marvon Sanders that allowed Romulus to maintain a 73-69 lead. He then followed that up with two from the line for the victory.

"Jarret stepped up big," Oats said. "We always expect him to play well, but he doesn't always score. But we needed him to

See **Champs**, page 12



Romulus' Jason Gibson makes a spectacular lay-up during the teams final-minute flurry to win Class A regional championship last Friday in Ypsilanti.

Canton lands 4th at state meet

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After a long season the Canton gymnasts can finally get some rest - some well-deserved rest.

After winning their regional championship earlier this month, the Chiefs vaulted to a fourth-place finish in the state championship team competition on Friday.

They finished with a 143.525. Brighton edged them out of third with a 144.275 - only 3.275 behind the state champs Tri-Farmington (147.550). Livonia Unified placed second with a 145.025.

The Canton team recorded eight 9's in the competition. Kara Ahern hit for a 9.150 on the beam and a 9.425 on her floor routine. Kaitlyn Burns also scored high on floor with a 9.225. Megan Chappo was strong on beam as well with a 9.025. Alyssa Kelley led the team on vault with a 9.3 and a 9.225 on bars. Jesse Murray scored a 9.2 on vault and a 9.075 on floor.

Murray was also the only girl on the team to score in all four events. She also recorded an 8.8



Salem's Ashley Aquinto was just one of the hundreds of gymnasts on hand for the team state championship meet, hosted by Plymouth High School on Friday. The individual meet was on Saturday. Canton placed fourth as a team and Aquinto placed third in Division 2 individual all-around for Salem.

on bars and an 8.825 on the beam.

The Northville/Novi combined team finished in seventh place overall (141.950) and Salem finished in eighth (139.950).

"It was a good meet for the kids," said Canton Coach John Cunningham. "The hardest thing

was for them to compete two days in a row, on Friday and Saturday."

Some of the athletes also competed in the individual meet on Saturday. In Division 1 competition, Kelley placed third on vault

See **States**, page 12

Webb, Phillips place in state tournament

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Dreams of having a state champion wrestler on the roster will have to wait another year for Canton Coach Casey Randolph.

Two of his superstars, sophomore Corey Phillips and senior Ryan Webb, participated in the State Wrestling Tournament last weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills. They were both predicted to do well, possibly even win, in their respective weight class but both struggled in early matches.

Phillips, at 130 pounds, placed fifth and Webb, a 135-pounder, ended up in seventh.

"Neither one of them won it but they beat some good kids along the way," Randolph said.

Phillips first-round opponent didn't make weight and forfeited. That put Phillips into the quarter-finals where he faced Saginaw Heritage's Andy Sullivan, a senior

boasting a 48-3 record. Phillips walked off the mat with a 6-4 victory.

He faced Kyle Kidd from Davison in the semi-finals but Phillips had three takedowns going out of bounds that weren't counted, according to Randolph. Phillips was leading the match, 2-0, going into the second but Kidd recorded an escape and then got a takedown for the lead, 3-2.

Phillips wasn't able to come back and lost, 6-4.

Then he had to face Joey Lopez of Waterford Mott, which proved to be another tough match. Phillips was winning 6-5 after two periods, but in the

third he was caught and pinned for a loss.

That loss knocked him down to the fifth-place match where he faced off against Grand Ledge's Bobby Taylor. It was another

Neither one of them won it but they beat some good kids along the way.

**Canton Coach
Casey Randolph**

See **Chiefs**, page 12

Plymouth Whalers shut out Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It's official. Plymouth clinched second place in the OHL's West Division.

It just so happens that they defeated the division's first-place team Sault Ste. Marie on Sunday to make it happen.

Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie stopped all 26 shots to wrap up the 2-0 victory at home in the Compuware Sports Arena.

Plymouth's Mike Looby, who was honored as the game's first star, scored late in the first period to give the Whalers the coveted 1-0 lead. Veterans Jonas Fiedler and John Vigilante assisted on the goal.

The second period went scoreless but a late crosschecking penalty by the Soo's Brad Good led to a power-play opportunity

that carried over into the third period. Just nine seconds into the final frame, with only 16 seconds left in the power play, Vigilante put one past Greyhound goalie Jakub Cech. John Mitchell earned the lone assists on the play.

The victory was Nie's third shutout of the season and the performance was probably one of the team's best of the season. They pulled out the win with a depleted lineup because seven players were out with injuries or suspensions.

The win nudged Plymouth over the .500 mark for a 29-28-8-6 record, good for 67 points – five points behind the Greyhounds and sixth place overall in the Western Conference.

The Whalers finish up the regular season this weekend with a road game against the Sarnia Sting tomorrow night and a home

game against the league-leading London Knights at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Plymouth 3, Erie 1

Special teams were the factors in the Whalers' 3-1 victory on Friday night in Erie.

Dan Collins and Mitchell each scored a short-handed goal and Tim Sestito chipped in with a power-play goal.

Collins opened things up at about the 12:37 mark of the first period. His unassisted short-handed goal was his 25th tally of the season. Mitchell also notched his 25th of the season when he, from Collins, knocked his in at about the 8:43 mark of the third.

Sestito hit a milestone when he scored on the power play. It was his 13th of the season and the 100th of his career. Collins and James Neal were credited with the assists.

Andrew Shennan, from Chris Greene and Jacob Heller, scored the lone Erie goal about mid way through the second period.

Plymouth 2, Windsor 5

Plymouth faced off against cross-river rivals the Windsor Spitfires last Thursday night in their 1000th regular season game.

Windsor burned the Whalers for 5-2 victory in the penalty-heavy game. Combined there were 28 penalties recorded, including five game misconducts – three for Plymouth and two for Windsor.

The first period ended in a 2-2 tie. Windsor was on the board first with a power-play goal from Paul Giallonardo. Mike Knight, from Neal and Sestito, countered with a tally at about the 11:28 mark.

Vigilante, with help from Mitchell and Knight, gave the Whalers the lead with a power-play score. But, with time running

out in the first, Steve Downie put one past Plymouth goaltender Justin Garay to make it a 2-2 game.

The two first-period goals would be all for the Whalers.

Ryan Garlock scored both of the Spitfires' goals in the second and Downie put the game away, 5-2, in the third.

The loss brought the Whalers overall record through 1000 games and 15 years to 542-356-86-16.

Making the cut

Detroit Pros

Detroit's International Basketball League (IBL) team the Pros now has season tickets available. Season tickets for 10 home games will cost \$55 for adults and \$30 for children ages 13 and under. Season floor seats will run \$100 per person. There are also special deals for family packs.

Individual game prices are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 13

and under, and \$15 for floor seats.

The regular season starts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10 with all home games played at Romulus High School.

For more information visit www.DetroitPros.com and to purchase tickets contact Herb Buckley at the Romulus Recreation Center at: 734-942-6852.

Northville

New leagues will be starting soon:

Adult Women's Softball will

start Tuesday, May 3. The entry fee is \$460 per team, which covers 11 games.

Adult Coed Softball will start Sunday, May 1. The entry fee is \$460 per team, which covers 11 games.

Adult Coed Kickball will start Friday, May 20. The entry fee is \$210 per team.

Adult Coed Golf will start at 5:22 pm Monday, April 25 at Brae Burn Golf Course. The entry fee of \$468 covers 18 weeks of play.

To contact Northville Parks

and Recreation, call 248-449-9947, or visit www.ci.northville.mi.us.

Westland

Skateland West's spring inline hockey season begins the week of April 4.

Late registration fee is \$130.

Registration includes eight games, eight practices, a jersey, a practice puck, and an end of season party complete with trophy, in addition to a U.S.A. Hockey membership.

To contact Skateland West, call 734-326-2801 from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. or visit www.skatelandwest.com.

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SHOWTIMES 3/18 - 3/23

THE RING TWO (PG-13) 3 PRINTS / 3 SCREENS

(SAT/SUN 11:15, 12:10) 1:00, 1:35, 2:30, 3:15,

4:10, 4:50, 5:35, 6:35, 7:15, 7:50, 9:05, 9:35,

10:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:20, 11:55

ICE PRINCESS (G)

(SAT/SUN 11:10) 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40

FRI/SAT LS 11:45

ROBOTS (PG) 3 PRINTS / 3 SCREENS

(SAT/SUN 11:00, 12:00) 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:00,

3:30, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:05, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00,

9:00, 9:30, 10:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

CURSED (PG-13)

FRI/SAT LS 11:50

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13)

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT FRI/SAT LS 11:00

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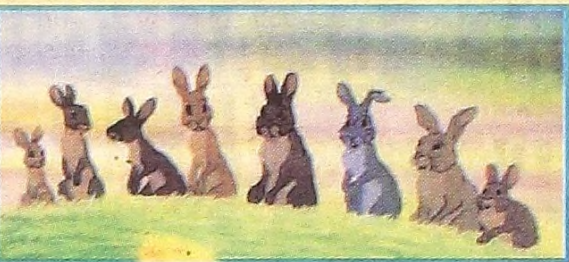
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64 Available

A-PLAN Stock #51397 **\$12,908²⁵** **\$13,586²⁰** **EVERYONE**

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
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See Demmer for details

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2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL



Take a look at these features... AM/FM/CDx6 MP3 radio, 17x7 5-spoke alum. with lug nuts, fog lamps, message center, steering wheel audio controls, optional equip., 3.0L 4V Duratec engine, auto. trans, 6-speed, P215/60R17 BSW tires, traction control. WAS \$25,045

76 Available

A-PLAN Stock #52779 **\$19,956²⁵** **\$21,833²⁵** **EVERYONE**

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
ZERO DOWN	\$239.02 PER MO. \$446.64 amount due	\$354.78 PER MO. \$904.65 amount due
\$1000 DOWN	\$196.28 PER MO. \$1422.66 amount due	\$292.32 PER MO. \$1422.88 amount due

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Take a look at these features... AM/FM/CDx6 MP# radio, anti-lock brakes, mess center, 17x7 5-spoke bright alum wheels, steering wheel audio controls, fog lamps, 3.0L 4V Duratec eng, contin variable trans, P215/65R17 BSW tires, 5.19 ratio reg axle, 50/50 split seat, trac control, 60/40 split 3-pass 2nd row. Was \$27,185

63 Available

A-PLAN Stock #52558 **\$21,949⁶⁵** **\$23,765⁶⁵** **EVERYONE**

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
ZERO DOWN	\$242.59 PER MO. \$355.19 amount due	\$343.29 PER MO. \$416.89 amount due
\$1000 DOWN	\$200.83 PER MO. \$1370.80 amount due	\$301.00 PER MO. \$1432.62 amount due

2005 Ford Escape Limited FWD



Take a look at these features... Leather comfort group, power driver's seat, speed control, air conditioning, Duratec 30-3.0L V-6 engine, four speed automatic transmission and more. WAS \$25,395

161 Available

A-PLAN Stock #51873 **\$18,685⁵⁸** **\$19,707⁵⁸** **EVERYONE**

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
ZERO DOWN	\$230.28 PER MO. \$462.10 amount due	\$309.00 PER MO. \$546.04 amount due
\$1000 DOWN	\$186.28 PER MO. \$1475.46 amount due	\$254.21 PER MO. \$1597.46 amount due

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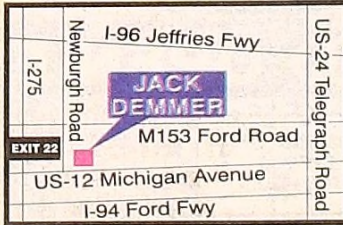
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15 Minutes From Everywhere

Champs

FROM PAGE 10

score (on Friday).

"(Smith) put the team on his back and carried us, as did a lot of the seniors. He's gone through a lot this year; people questioning if he should be going to Michigan, questioning his heart. He led Romulus to their second regional championship in Romulus history. So I think everybody who's been on him can get off him right now. He showed that he had a lot of heart tonight."

He finished the night with 20 points.

The night started out shaky for the Eagles. They trailed 21-12 after the first and Ypsi's junior guard Woody Payne extended it to 29-14 with a triple in the second.

Romulus didn't give in, though. They whittled away at the lead and brought it to within six at the half, 39-33, and within four after three, 53-49.

Senior forward Avery Stephen-

son brought the Eagles to within two, 67-65, when he hit a deuce and two freebies. Then Smith hit the triple for the lead and Stephenson and senior guard/forward Jason Gibson each added doubles to make it a 72-67 game.

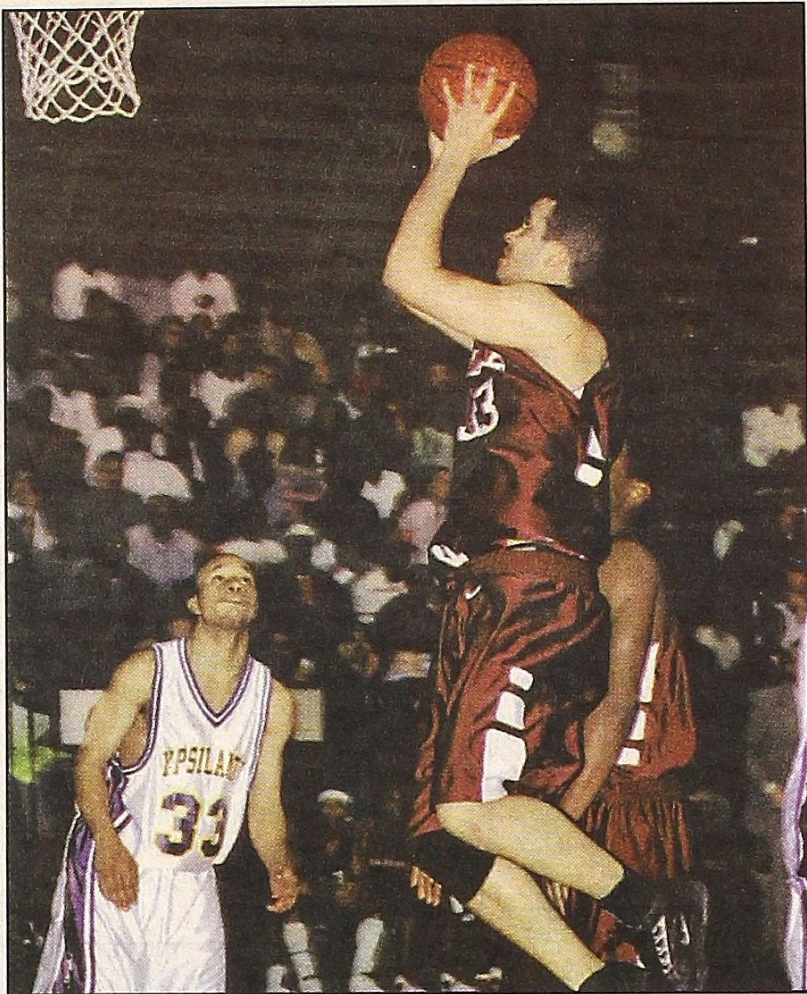
But Ypsi's senior guard Josh Young nailed a key double to keep his team in it, 69-72. The final seconds belonged to Romulus, though. Gibson hit a free throw and Smith pretty much controlled the final 35.4 seconds of the game.

Stephenson had a game high of 21 and Jason Gibson added 11.

"We worked a lot in the last week and a half on a end-of-game situations," Oats said.

"The kids know how to win and they never gave up. This team just gelled, they never lost confidence. They never doubted themselves."

They played a hardwood juggernaut, Detroit Pershing, Tuesday night in a state quarter-final match up. The results were unavailable at press time but, win or lose, it's still good to be the Romulus Eagle varsity basketball team.



Eagle Jarret Smith makes a shot to help lead Romulus to their second regional crown in school history. He scored 20 in the victory.

States

FROM PAGE 10

with a 9.475. Vault was by far her strongest event - she went undefeated until Saturday.

Murray also recorded high marks in the event. She hit for a 9.125, which tied her for tenth. Kelley also tied for seventh on the floor with a 9.4 and tied for ninth on bars with a 9.150.

In Division 2, Kaitlyn Burns tied with Northville/Novi's Julie Foucher for tenth place on floor with an 8.950.

Salem's Ashley Aquinto wrapped up third place in Division 2 all-around with a total score of 36.575.

Chappo received the big honors of the weekend when she was given the Kim Rennalds Senior Gymnast of the Year Award, which is accompanied with a \$500 scholarship, by the Coaches and Judges Association.

But the biggest kudos was given to Cunningham, when he was named State Coach of the Year for Gymnastics.

Chiefs

FROM PAGE 10

tough one. The match was tied 8-8 at the end of regulation but in overtime Phillips took Taylor down and pinned him for the win. Phillips improved from last year's seventh place finish.

East Detroit's Chris Gruenburg, an opponent that

Phillips had defeated in regional competition, won the championship at 130 pounds.

There was a similar outcome in the next division up where Sean Dong won the 135-pound weight class. He was an opponent that Webb had defeated two out of three times during the season.

"It's kind of disheartening knowing we they were so close and knowing that they had beaten the wrestlers that won,"

Randolph said.

Webb started out strong in his first match, where he won by technical fall (17-1) against Utica Ford's Jack Abbat.

The next day it didn't go quite as planned. Webb fell to David Johnson 4-6.

"Ryan just didn't wrestle the way he has been wrestling," Randolph said. "I don't know if he underestimated him or what."

He made up for it in the next

round, when he dominated Troy Athen's Phil Shaheen for a 9-5 win. He struggled again against Rockford's Dustin Anderson and fell, 3-4, knocking him down to the seventh-place match against Jared Nabors of Kalamazoo West. There he put the match away, 11-3, to finish the tournament in seventh place, one better than his appearance the previous year.

Webb finished the season 53-3, setting a new school record for

most wins in a season. He also finished with 139 career wins which beat the old school record of 132.

Randolph will lose Webb to graduation this year along with other seniors but he still maintains a positive outlook on the future.

"We have a lot of experienced kids coming back and we're going to set high goals," he said. "In order to build a winning program you have to set high goals."

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Manage medical expenses with an HSA



Fred Grant

Inside Small Business
www.fredgrantcpa.com

If you're concerned about rising medical costs, you might want to take a serious look at a health savings account. Health savings accounts

(HSAs) were created by Medicare reform legislation that was passed in 2003.

Think of an HSA as an IRA for medical costs instead of retirement. Intended to be used in conjunction with high-deductible

insurance plans, HSAs are designed to help pay your medical expenses until your insurance policy begins picking up expenses.

To qualify for a health savings account, a taxpayer must meet two basic requirements:

1. The taxpayer must have a health insurance plan with a high deductible (defined as \$1,000 for an individual and \$2,000 for a family).

2. The taxpayer must be under age 65 when setting up the account.

The accounts can be funded with pre-tax contributions made by employers, tax-deductible contributions made directly by the individual taxpayer, or with rollover funds from Archer Medical Savings Accounts or other HSAs. (Rollovers from an

IRA, a health reimbursement arrangement, or a flexible spending account are not permitted.)

For 2005, contributions of up to \$2,650 for individuals and \$5,250 for families can be made. An additional \$600 can be contributed by those who reach age 55 by the end of 2005.

The big difference between an HSA and other tax-favored medical savings accounts is that the funds in an HSA can be invested, and the earnings grow tax-free. Withdrawals used for medical expenses are not subject to income tax. Also, unlike funds set aside

for medical expenses in flexible spending accounts, unspent funds in HSAs remain in the account to grow tax-free year after year. After age 65, withdrawals can be made and used for any purpose penalty-free but not income tax-free.

While these accounts will not be the best choice for every business or every individual, they certainly should be considered a tax-saving opportunity worth exploring. If you're interested in finding out more about the new health savings accounts, give us a call.

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show
"Inside Small Business" every weekend on
or call Fred at 734-455-1040



Convert Your IRA From Tax Deferred to Tax Free!

Wouldn't it be great if you did not need to take mandatory distributions on your IRA (and pay tax)? Wouldn't it be great to have the IRA money grow tax free (rather than tax-deferred)? Although the Roth IRA offers these two benefits to IRA owners, their incomplete knowledge has kept them from converting their IRA to tax free status.

Because the accumulated tax on your IRA must be paid immediately upon conversion to the tax-free Roth IRA, many investors do not convert. Even though for most, the long run advantages outweigh the immediate payment of the tax, they still avoid the tax by keeping their tax-deferred IRA.

But what if you could reduce this tax or even push it off until after your Lifetime?

You can reduce the tax by purchasing a fixed annuity in your IRA and then converting to a Roth IRA. Based on the IRS rule that you pay tax on the fair market value of assets in your IRA, annuities are taxed at their fair market value, which is their "surrender value" rather than their higher "account value" when distributed from or converted to an IRA. So just by owning the right investment, you can reduce the taxable amount of your IRA.

That still leaves the problem on the immediate tax payment, albeit smaller by using the annuity. Although the immediate tax payment is due, here's a way to avoid taking the money from your pocket. For those who really want to maximize the cash flow from the conversion, use a residential equity line to pay the tax. Many financial institutions offer equity lines, interest only, at prime rate. Most people can deduct this interest and then pay the interest with a tax free withdrawal from the Roth IRA. As long as your investments in the Roth IRA earn more than prime rate, you are ahead! You potentially get the tax deduction and also have your IRA growing tax free.

When do you pay off the equity line? When your house is sold. So if you live in your current house for the rest of your life, when your estate is settled and the house is sold, the equity line is paid from the house proceeds and your heirs inherit a tax-free Roth IRA!

If you would like having more of your money working tax-free, the Roth conversion is for you. To have analysis prepared, call Curt Whipple at (734) 844-3400 for an appointment.



Curt Whipple
C. Curtis and Associates, Inc.

"I heard that wireless home networks are very very vulnerable to hackers and viruses. Is it safe to have a wireless network in my home or at my business?"



Steve Whitt
My Computer Guys

Great question. Wireless networks can be just as secure and run just as fast if not faster than wired networks to a certain extent.

They are cheap to deploy, easy to setup, and if you're not worried about broadcasting your wireless signal all over your neighborhood, wireless networks can be an out of the box solution in most cases. However, broadcasting your wireless signal sets you up to be the person or company we all see on the news as being investigated for the latest virus that was released and caused millions of dollars in damage. Is that extreme and the odds of it happening to you low, sure, but make no mistake in thinking it couldn't or doesn't happen. What is more common though is that your neighbor, whose machine is loaded with viruses and worms, is sharing you connection and infecting all machines on your network, costing you dollars and downtime.

Most wireless devices utilize WEP (Wireless Encryption Privacy) which offers 128 bit encryption.

This provides initial security via secure authentication, but there are ways around that. Tools available via the Internet allow some wireless systems to be cracked and used for illegitimate use such as free internet access or a potential attack on a different network launched from the host's network. I've seen compromised systems being used as application servers serving up everything from spam to illicit material and the owner be none the wiser until we came over and gave them a free consultation and discovered the issue. Because of such tools, broadcasting past the walls of your building or home is not recommended, and the only way to prevent this is by implementing a RADIUS encryption server. For a company this would be the best solution, but for a home owner it can be expensive but by following the below guidelines you are much less likely to be the victim.

Limit your wireless device to allow access by authorized MAC address only. Even though this still isn't 100% secure since misguided individuals can spoof MAC address, it's better than not doing it.

- Limit available amount of DHCP address to hand out. This will allow you to see if someone is attached to your network and give you the ability to react.
- Make sure you set up WEP and write the number down and put it someplace safe! This is a must and should be made mandatory on all wireless devices.
- DO NOT BROADCAST YOUR SSID!!! If they have your SSID they half way own you.
- To answer your question, yes they can be a safe but it takes a professional to make them safe secure and bulletproof.

Steve Whitt
My Computer Guys of Michigan - (734) 207-8280



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Financially SPEAKING

Q - I'm already contributing to a 401(k). Why should I consider a Roth IRA as part of my retirement planning?

A - If you have a 401(k), make sure you contribute at least up to what your employer matches. Then consider that while money in a 401(k) grows tax deferred, it's subject to tax when you make a withdrawal, even at the age of 59 1/2. With a Roth IRA, your money grows tax-free, and you don't pay taxes on a qualified withdrawal. Also, your 401(k) limits you to the funds offered through your employer. With a Roth IRA, you're not tied to a specific fund family. Each option has a contribution limit and your personal situation will determine how much you can afford to contribute to either plan. We can help you decide among your options. All DFCU Financial Partners Financial Consultants through our broker-dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors through the College of Financial Planning. They're located at each DFCU Financial branch and have the experience and all the necessary credentials to help you. For a complimentary consultation stop by or call us at 313.336.2700 or toll free at 888.336.2700 outside the local area. Or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.



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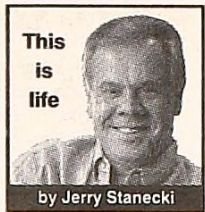
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Stand up and take responsibility for your mistakes



Opening my e-mail, I smiled. I always feel good when I hear from my daughter, Anastasia. She's in Hollywood chasing her dream by working on the production of a feature film.

As I read her correspondence, my smile turned to a chuckle, albeit a compassionate chuckle.

"Dad,
I made a horrible mistake at work that rippled over to the executive producer and supervisors and assistant directors...and it was my entire fault. I feel terrible. I faxed the wrong map to the extras casting company so 200 extras went to the wrong location this morning. Needless to say, everyone is talking about how I screwed up. So my day is not going that well.

And yours?
Annie"

I laughed out loud at my daughter's comedic timing with her closing line, "And yours?"

I'll bet my dear daughter's popularity soared to the top of 200 standing-in-the-rain extras you-know-what list. I wrote back offering a father's suggestions.

"Annie,
First things first. Don't be too hard on yourself, you are merely human and

humans make mistakes. Especially humans who are sick. (She had the flu and a cold) I suggest you de-dramatize the event, and if you haven't already done so, tell your boss you made a mistake, you're responsible for it; you're sorry. Most of all, forget about everyone talking about it. People talk, your mistake gives others something to chuckle about and that's cool. Remember, you can start your day over right now.

I love you,
Dad

I fired off the email, but Annie was already in action.

She emailed:
"Dad,

I called and apologized to the 2nd AD (assistant director) and makeup artist who was screaming and wrote an email to the executive producer and production supervisor who were both angry. I said I was responsible for the error and was sorry my actions caused a negative reflection upon all of us.

Annie"

It was one of those moments. I couldn't be prouder of my daughter. She'd made a mistake, stood tall, accepted sole responsibility for it and apologized. Annie had

added more integrity to her character.

It's sad how difficult it is for so many people to say "I was wrong" or, "I made a mistake." It's equally amazing how ingrained it is in so many of us to immediately blame others for something that's gone awry.

Why?

Could it be those old pictures of fear-based beliefs that if you admit you've made a mistake you will lose something? That's you'll lose a friend, a job, a partner, perhaps the acceptance from others? Or, that you will be exposed for being "less than" —less than perfect, an expert in your field, a perfect wife or husband?

All of those fears, denials based on old pictures—dark negative pictures— fill

your closet with skeletons, skeletons that hold you hostage from feeling free.

New pictures, as so wonderfully demonstrated by my daughter, are rich, nourishing, freeing acts that feed inner happiness.

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1. Obituaries

BELVITCH, Ruth E., age 85, of Ann Arbor (formerly of Wayne, MI), died March 10, 2005. Ruth was born on December 8, 1919 in Evansville, Indiana. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Agler; her son, John; granddaughters, Jena Agler, Julie (Ed) Ackron of CA; sisters, Catherine (Benjamin) Roberts and Dorothy Pelkey; a great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Edward; parents, John Wesley and Delphine Rawlings; sister Marjorie Miller; son-in-law, Thomas Agler; and grandson, Jeffrey. Ruth's cheerful spirit and smile will be missed. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Those who wish may direct memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Assoc., 107 Aprill Drive, Ste. 1, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Arrangements by Muehlig Funeral Chapel (734-663-3375)

HIGGINS, Rick
Age 51, of Romulus
March 10, 2005

LAMBERT, Troye C.
Age 86 of Ypsilanti
March 12, 2005

PETROWSKI, Edward R. Jr.
Age 72 of Van Buren
March 10, 2005

STENMAN, Fay J.
Age 73 of Ypsilanti
March 11, 2005

TOMLIN, Samuel A.
Age 49 of Van Buren
March 11, 2005

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On MARCH 22, 2005 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded abandoned
vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at
10:am at Westland Service
Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill,
Westland, MI, County of
Wayne, where the follow-
ing vehicles will be offered
for sale to the highest bid-
der:

1990 Ford Tempo
4Dr Red
2FAPP36X5LB142207

1992 Chrysler New Yorker
4Dr White
1C3XC66R1ND784241

1987 Nissan
4Dr Red
1N4PB21S6HC822712

1990 Geo Prizm
4Dr Blue
1Y1SK7163LZ085605

1992 Geo Metro
4Dr Teal
2C1MR6469N6799474

1995 Ford T-Bird
2Dr Burgundy
1FALP6247SH120626

2004 Pontiac Grand Am
4Dr Gray
1G2NF2E14M526862

1999 Ford Taurus
4Dr Red
1FAPP53UXXA137989

1994 Ford Taurus
4Dr Gray
1FALP53UXRA291125

1989 Chevy Z-24
2Dr White
1G1JF11W9K7217383

1994 Dodge Intrepid
4Dr Blue/Red
1B3ED56F9RF188127

1989 Ford Mustang
2Dr Gray
1FABP41A6KF240792

1991 Olds Cutlass
4Dr White
1G3NL54DXMM040561

1992 Chevy Lumina
SWgn Blue
1GNDU06L0NT153501

The second auction will
begin promptly at 11:00am
at Westland Car Care,
6375 Hix Rd., Westland,
MI, County of Wayne,
where the following vehi-
cles will be offered for sale
to the highest bidder:

1993 Ford Tempo
2Dr Red
1FAPP36XXPK177207

1984 Ford Tempo
4Dr White
1FABP22R4EK252881

1993 Ford Probe
2Dr Gray
1ZVCT22B4P5159449

1992 Toyota Tercel
2Dr Blue
JT2EL46B9N0239236

1990 Chevy Lumina
2Dr Black
2G1WN14T0L9217878

1995 Ford Taurus
4Dr Black
1FALP52U9SG129828

1990 Ford T-Bird
2Dr Lt Brown
1FAPP6044LH152150

1990 Chevy Corsica
4Dr Blue
1G1LT54G0LY174142

1993 Pontiac Bonneville
4Dr Black
1G2HX53L5P1249274

2001 Ford Focus
2Dr Yellow
3FAFP31311R202658

1989 Chevy Cavalier
2Dr White
1G1JC1111K7117758

1990 Ford F-150
Pk Trk Blue
1FTEX15N8LKB51592

All vehicles are sold in "as
is" condition. Bidding on
all vehicles will start at the
amount due for towing and
storage. Vehicles may be
deleted from this list at any
time prior to the start of the
auction.

66. Landscape/ Nurseries

Landscape equipment
Package deal includes
trailer, ZTR and walk-
behind
\$9,500
Call 313-562-2384

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and
weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave,
HBO. Call 734-721-1220,
Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100.
Fairlane in Novi 248-347-
9999

BELLEVILLE
Furnished, utilities
and refrigerator
included. \$70 week
734-699-3232

CANTON DAYS INN Five Sunburst Rating!

Low Daily, Weekly, and
Monthly rates.
Free deluxe breakfast
Guest Laundry
Microfridge in all rooms
All local calls free
Free High speed wireless
internet.
40500 Michigan Ave.
Exit 22 off I-275
734-721-5200

ROOM FOR rent, Wayne,
\$85/weekly, all utilities
included. Call 734-721-
0232.

Sleeping Room
\$80/week, private entrance
734-728-9413

88. Duplexes For Rent

WAYNE
Victorian Style
2 Bedroom flat
No pets. \$650/month
plus security.
Do your own painting
\$595/month
734-326-5025

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE

Call for list of
available 2 & 3 BR
duplexes, and single
family homes. Section
8 welcome. Lead safe
units available.
Professional full-time
management.
Norplex Associates
734-722-6444
EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

1 Bedroom efficiency
apartment in Wayne.
All utilities paid.
\$150 / week
Call: 734-729-5770

Plymouth Studio Apt., All
utilities included, new car-
pet, clean, shared laundry
\$500/month
Call 734-453-3387

Wayne, MI - Quiet
1 Bedroom, Well
maintained, heat,
water, A/C included,
no pets,
\$495, call a
manager @
734-729-2108
or owner @
734-878-0859

Wayne, Near Wayne Road
- Nice, Clean
1 Bedroom - Heat, Water &
Appliances included - No
Pets \$475 and up
Call: 313-561-9818

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LET US HELP YOU.
PLACE YOUR AD
WITH US TODAY!
467-1900

6. Legal Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR ANNAPOLIS POINTE - PHASE 1 A CITY OF INKSTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BIDS DUE: April 21, 2005

2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME

The City of Inkster, Michigan will receive bids through their Construction Manager, Crosswinds Communities/InterNodal Concepts, Inc. at the Office of the Inkster City Clerk, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141 until 2:00 p.m., Local Time on Thursday, April 21, 2005 for the Phase 1 reconstruction of infrastructure for the Annapolis Pointe Redevelopment Project.

The City of Inkster has retained the Developer of the single-family homes, Crosswinds Communities/InterNodal Concepts, Inc. to be the Construction Manager for the infrastructure improvements.

Project Site: The Project site consists of two separate areas, Area 1 and Area 2. Area 1 is bounded on the north by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Wayland Court and Crystal Court, on the east by Irene Avenue, on the south by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Yorkville Court and Bridgeport Court, and on the west by Northland Street. Area 2 is bounded on the north by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Annapolis Avenue, on the east by Irene Avenue, on the south by Annapolis Avenue, and on the west by Northland Street. Area 2 is currently not included in the scope of work.

Scope of Work: The work to be performed is infrastructure reconstruction in the public right of way within the Phase 1 project areas. The work includes demolition, excavation, erosion and sediment control, installation of new sewers (sanitary & storm), water mains & service leads, removal and replacement of roadways pavement, construction of detention ponds, and other miscellaneous work.

Qualification Statement and Bid Security: Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Qualification and Experience Statement and certified check, money order or a satisfactory Bid Bond in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the total bid, drawn payable to the City of Inkster as security that if the Proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and deliver acceptable proof of Insurance, Performance & Labor and Materials Bonds within seven (7) calendar days after the award of the Contract. The sealed proposal, qualification and experience statement and Bid Bond shall be delivered to the office of the City Clerk. All proposals shall be sealed and properly labeled with the project name, bidder name and the date and time of the opening, and shall be addressed as follows:

Ms. Jackie Beaudry
City Clerk
City of Inkster
2121 Inkster Road
Inkster, MI 48141

Bidding Documents: Beginning March 23, 2005 copies of the Bid Package documents may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, Ms. Jackie Beaudry, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. The Bid Package documents may also be examined at the Office of Giffles-Webster Engineers, Inc. 407 E. Fort Street, Suite 600, Detroit; Construction Association of Michigan, Dodge Reports and Reed Construction Data. The Bid Package documents may be obtained from the offices of Crosswinds Communities, 41050 Vincent Court, Novi, Michigan, Contact: Ms. Jennifer Fisher upon payment of \$35.00 per set (non-refundable). Please make all checks payable to "City of Inkster."

Pre-Bid Meeting: A pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2005 2:00 p.m. local time at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt Road. Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting and tour the site to familiarize themselves with the project.

Award: Proposals shall remain firm for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the bid opening. The City of Inkster reserves the right to accept any or all proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the interest of the City of Inkster.

Local Contracting Requirements: The Contractor shall comply with, and abide by all requirements of the City of Inkster, Ordinance No. 603, Local, Minority and Female Business Enterprise Opportunity Ordinance (LMFBE Ordinance) and Ordinance Nos. 693 and 760 (ordinance amending Ordinance No. 603) that have been included in the bid documents.

Ms. Jackie Beaudry
City Clerk

Publish: March 17, 2005

59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale.
Pursuant to State Law, a
sale will be held on March
29, 2005 at 1:00 PM on the
following units:

C1-3 Jason Mausolf-
Furniture, Boxes, Tools,
Microwave, TV, Stereo &
Speakers;

E-23 Susan Wallace-
Boxes, Fish tank, Golf
clubs, Lawn chair;

E-32 Microlite
Technologies-Boxes, Tools,
Furniture;

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS

Inkster-Adult Community • Modern Apartments

\$495/mo. Over 640 Sq. Ft.
(Limited Time Offer) **1 Bedroom**

\$99.00 Security Deposit w/approved credit

Central Air & Heat • Garbage Disposal
• Large Walk-In Closets
Ample Off-Street Parking • Laundry Facilities

• 1 Block n. of Michigan Avenue • 15 minutes
to Metro Airport, Amtrak, Ford Village
• Smart Bus Transportation to Downtown Detroit

Short Term Lease Available.

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Belmont Manor apartments

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!

Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$560*

Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$660*

• Extensive Storage • Fitness Center
• Minutes from Eastern MI University,
Metro Airport & University of MI

3 Blks. South of Belleville Rd.
(Main St.) On Huron River Drive

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We have up to two months FREE rent.

• FREE Heat • FREE Water
• Large individual Storage area
• Laundry Facilities In
Each Building
• Large Walk-In Closet
• 24 Hour Maintenance
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& Shopping

33095 Forest, Wayne, MI

734 326-7800

South of Michigan Ave., Just off of Venoy

92. Business Places
For Rent

Romulus on Ecorse Rd.
between Inkster &
Middlebelt. Approx. 1,000
sq. ft. of office space and
2,000 sq. ft. of shop
space, ample parking and
yard. Available April 1,
2005. Call 734-637-2499

96. Houses
For Rent

INKSTER
3 Bedroom, basement,
Option 2 buy \$600

INKSTER
3 Bedroom, 2 baths, base-
ment, garage \$685
22 Available from
\$575-\$750
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

PLYMOUTH
Basement, garage, appli-
ances, fence \$700

CANTON
Basement, 2 baths, all
appliances \$895
All Cities Available
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

Romulus
Very Clean
3 Bedroom near I-94 &
Wayne Rd., washer/dryer,
2.5 car garage,
large yard
\$890/month
Charles Reinhart Co.
Call John Smalec
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WAYNE
Ranch available now, pets
OK \$750

ROMULUS
Garage, air,
pets negotiable \$800
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

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to place your
classified ad.

WESTLAND
Available now, carpeted
\$635

WESTLAND
3 Bedroom, garage,
fenced 4 pet \$750
20 Available from
\$600-\$850
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

Inkster
Wayne/Westland Schools
725 Sunningdale
Bungalow-3 bedroom,
1 bath, full basement
Many new updates.
\$950/month
734-483-4977

105. Mobile
Homes-Lots

Clean 3 Bedroom, seller
financing,
\$999 down,
\$200/month for 48 months
Belleville
Call 734-925-6040

106. Houses For
Sale

ROMULUS
3 Bedroom Ranch,
all new updates, appli-
ances stay, oak kitchen,
2.5 car attached garage
Must See
Best Buy in Town!
MOTIVATED SELLER!
\$119,900
734-637-3434

ROMULUS
For Sale By Owner
3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, appli-
ances, 1067 sq ft.
beautiful kitchen, central
air, basement, newer win-
dows, built-in microwave,
carpeted
throughout, newly painted,
Great Investment Property!
Approved buyers only
please.
Tenant occupied and
willing to stay.
\$117,900
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113. Wanted Real
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Any Area
Any Condition
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118. Freebies

Bird Cage
22" tall by 13" long
Like new \$15
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4-Piece Collapsible
luggage set
New-Burgundy \$60
734-697-5338

Canning jars (quart)
33 for \$20.00
734-261-5008

Coca-Cola bottle
over 6' tall
cools with ice, drains
will not fit in car
\$20 734-542-1650

Fender Frontman Amp
PR241 8"
like new \$25
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Portable 7-jewel,
auto zig-zag
Sewing machine
Works great
\$25 or best offer.
734-455-2689
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Couch/hide-a-bed
70" wide, steel frame,
good condition
\$50 or best offer.
734-455-2689
after 5:00

Your 2-line ad here
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Runs for 1 week for any
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David C. Brown, Manager
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Crane

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ROMULUS
734-941-9200
WILLIAM A. CRANE



Harry J. Will
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(734) 721-5600
Tom Lynch • Manager Also in Livonia
Jim Henley • Director & Redford

UHT FUNERAL HOME
Harold Rediske Jr., Director
Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert,
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"The Funeral Home You Can Believe In"
JAMES H. PENN & SON
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Inkster, MI 48141
313-278-6300

43. Money to Lend

Financial Problems!

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www.davidsonreferrals.com.

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We can Help!
House, car, personal,
small business start up.
call 1-866-231-0754

No upfront fees.
Fast reliable options



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MILITARY - Call for Discount!

- Have fun making great money!
- Earn \$20-\$40 per hour
- Learn in an actual nightclub setting
- Day/Evening/Weekend classes
- Don't be fooled by a traveling bartending school or mail order scams!
- Bar managers and owners only hire bartenders with "hands-on" experience
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THE SCENE



shines with bright graphics, clever dialogue

Robots is an eye-popping wonder.

Each scene in the film, directed by Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha and written by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, is its own work of art, filled with such miniscule detail that appreciation will most likely grow with each viewing.

The film follows the adventures of Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by Ewan McGregor) as he tries to make it on his own in the enormous futuristic town of Robot City – a place made of gears, wires and swirls, like the ultimate erector set combined with a few gyroscopes and a mind boggling marble run.

Copperbottom is a young inventor, the son of a dishwasher, and full of youthful ideals inspired by his televised mentor Big Weld (Mel Brooks). On his weekly television show, Weld would solicit ideas from other robot inventors – “Find the need, and fill it,” he says – and signs off each telecast with the inspirational line that is inscribed above the gate of his huge corporate headquarters: You can shine no matter what you’re made of.

With that in mind, young Copperbottom leaves the small town of Rivet City, with his almost perfected wonderbot as a companion. He finds a Robot City that is much more grim than he expected, though.

First of all, Big Weld hasn’t been seen in months and his assistant, a high-tech corporate robot named Phineas T. Ratchet (Greg Kinnear) is about to take control of the corporation. What’s worse, he’s got a plan to destroy all spare parts and force robots to purchase expensive ‘upgrades’ when they break down. The upgrades are all sleek and shiny, aerodynamic and reflective where the other robots are colorful and unique. He changes the corporate motto to: Why be you, when you can be new?

And so Copperbottom finds himself in the center of a class war, where individuality is about to be stomped out by corporate greed.

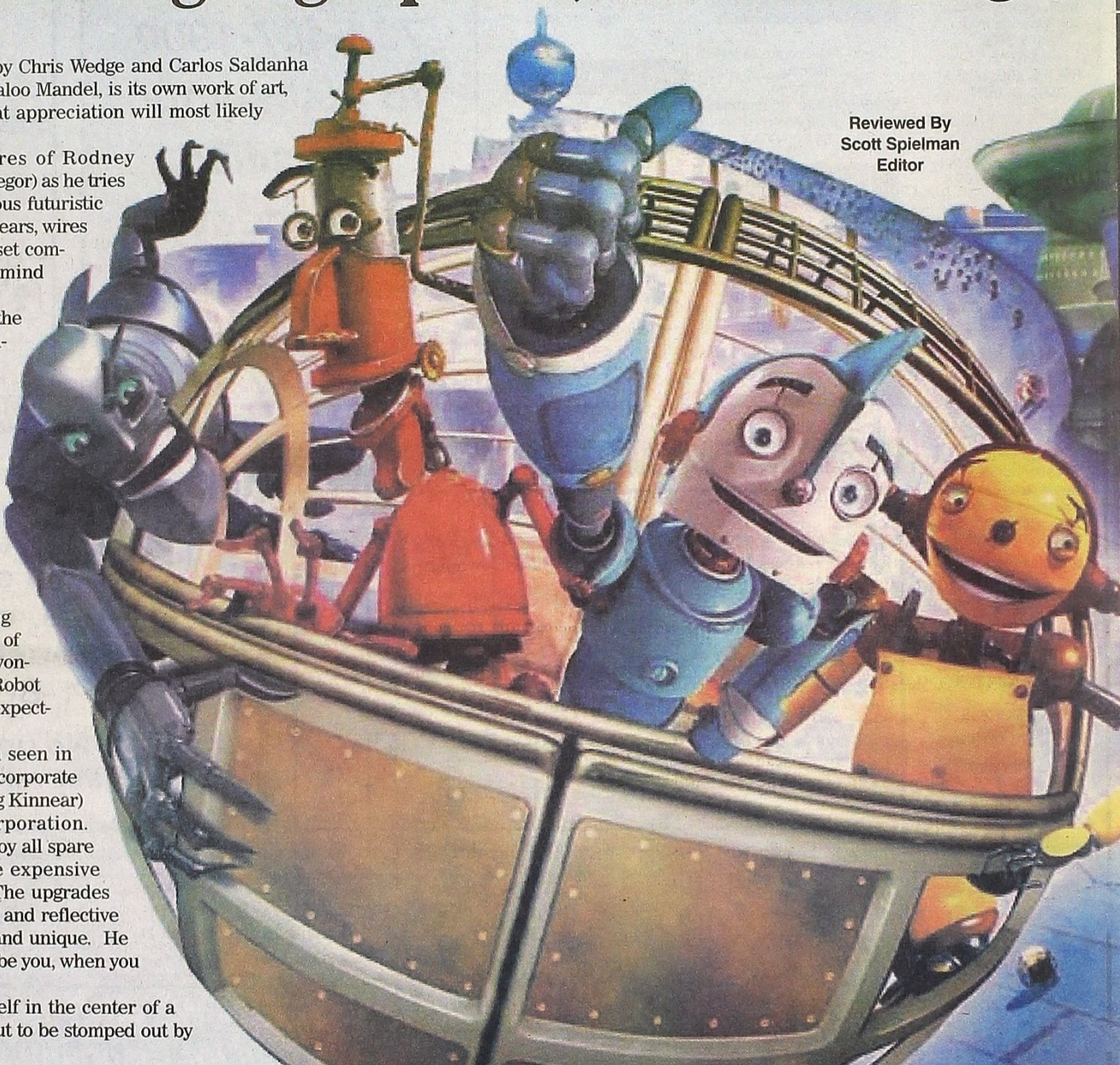
He soon hooks up with a bunch of other misfit robots, most notably Fender, who is voiced by Robin Williams. I suspect even the animators had a difficult time keeping up with Williams’ vocal antics, which provide many funny moments in the film.

Copperbottom becomes a bit of a folk hero to these ‘average’ robots, who cannot afford to purchase the expensive upgrades, and would much rather be themselves, anyway, thank you very much. He’s an inventor, after all, and he’s got a set of tools that can fix nearly any glitch. He then decides to take on a quest to find Big Weld and bring him and his philosophy back to the people. Er... robots.

This is a film that will appeal to children – many of whom will stare in wonder at the fantastic scenes in the movie – and adults, who will relish the many jokes in a film that succeeds on several levels. They’ll most likely stare in wonder, too.

Robots is one part *Wizard of Oz*, mixed with a dash of a coming of age comedy and sprinkled with slapstick and satire. It’s all good fun, though, and the dazzling backdrops themselves are worth the price of admission.

Reviewed By
Scott Spielman
Editor



Kid's Corner

By Henry Spielman

This movie was very funny. I liked the yellow robot, Piper, (voiced by Nickelodeon's Amanda Bynes). The song at the end made me dance.

Spoiler alert: The rest of this review reveals plot points from *Robots*.

I liked the part where the bad robots got scrapped.



'The Jacket' entertains despite poor performances

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

What's there to say about *The Jacket*?

It's hard to expand on something that I neither liked nor disliked. In all essence it was just there – 102 restraining minutes.

I could start by saying that Adrien Brody should have quit while he was ahead. After grasping an Oscar for Best Actor in 2002 for his role in Roman Polanski's *The Pianist* it has been all downhill.

As for the rest of the cast, they are in the same boat; either they

forgot how to or director John Maybury failed to motivate them to do what they were paid to do: act.

Keira Knightly, who has worked her way up from the sleeper indie hit *Bend It Like Beckham* to above-mediocre roles in high-profile and high-

profit movies such as *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* and *King Arthur*, plays Jackie Price.

The aging – and I don't mean gracefully – Kelly Lynch plays Jean Price, Jackie's drunken, chain-smoking mother who (thankfully) only has about three

lines in the movie. Kris Kristofferson merely stumbles his way through his role as Dr. Becker and Jennifer Jason Leigh is a very subdued Dr. Lorensen, who seems more of a background fixture at times than

See *Jacket*, page 20

THE SCENE

Jacket

FROM PAGE 18

a supporting actress.

The movie starts in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War where U.S. Marine Sgt. Jack Starks (Brody) suffers a near-fatal gunshot wound to the head. He recovers but is left with amnesia and suffers blackouts. He's released nine months later, and the homeless and family-less Stark hitchhikes to his native Vermont, which was really parts of Scotland and Canada, where the film was actually shot.

On his journey he encounters a broken down pickup truck and passengers, 8-year-old Jackie and her disoriented drunken mother, Jean. Stark befriends Jackie and fixes the truck, only to be left behind on the cold highway. He's finally offered a ride from a young, nameless stranger played by Brad Renfro. But a short time later, the station wagon is pulled over and everything goes black for Stark. When he awakens he finds himself on trial for the murder of a police officer.



der of a police officer.

He is ruled innocent by means of insanity and is committed to Alpine Grove, an institution for the criminally insane where he undergoes experimental treatment by Dr. Becker.

He's injected with illegal, mind-bending experimental drugs; strapped into a straight jacket; and shoved into a morgue drawer in the institution basement for hours at a time.

While in the drawer he suffers flashbacks that enable him to piece together the mystery



shrouding the death of the police officer and much more.

The drugs and "the jacket" somehow transport him to 2007 where he catches up with the now-grown Jackie in a diner in Vermont and learns that he will die in four days in the present (1991) while still in custody of the institu-

tion.

With each trip into the drawer and each trip into the future he tries to piece together his own death, but with time running out he only manages to help the one person that means anything to him, Jackie.

The Jacket is suspenseful and held my attention for the duration but the entire time I waited for a big twist or some great conspiracy to be revealed. I was disappointed, as usual. Check your expectations for good acting at the door and enjoy the entertaining story.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday March 23, 2005 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 4.23 SIGNS.

The proposed text amendments include but are not limited to the following revisions: Definitions, signs in the Office Technology (OT) zoning district, regulations for LED Reader Board signs, construction and maintenance standards, and other types of commercial sign height and area.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Developmental Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 17, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday March 23, 2005 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92 as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 4.14 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES.

The proposed text amendments include but are not limited to the following revisions: Definitions, building setbacks, height roof pitch, and other types of accessory buildings and structures.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Developmental Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should fee free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 17, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Community Services will be conducting its annual spring-cleaning at all township cemeteries.

**Spring-cleaning will begin March 19th, 2005,
and run through March 26th, 2005**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not retrieved by March 18th, 2005.

New items may be displayed beginning March 27th, 2005.

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

Denton (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
Soop (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)
Tyler (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
Otisville (Riggs Road)

For Additional information contact
Leader Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8921 ext. 228.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: March 17, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FOR TAX ABATEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Romulus City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 4, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974 as amended, for Aztec Manufacturing Corporation, 15378 Oakwood Drive, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Land situated in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan, described as:

32B6, 7 LOTS 6 and 7 OAKWOOD INDUSTRIAL PARK SUB T3S R9E L103 P92-96 WCR SPLIT ON 12/18/2001 WITH 80 125 01 0007 000 INTO 80 125 01 0006 300;

Parcel Identification Nos. 82 80 125 01 0006 300

This is an open meeting! All interested citizens are invited to attend, and will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be forwarded no later than April 4, 2005 at 12 o'clock noon to the attention of:

City of Romulus
Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
11111 Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174-1485

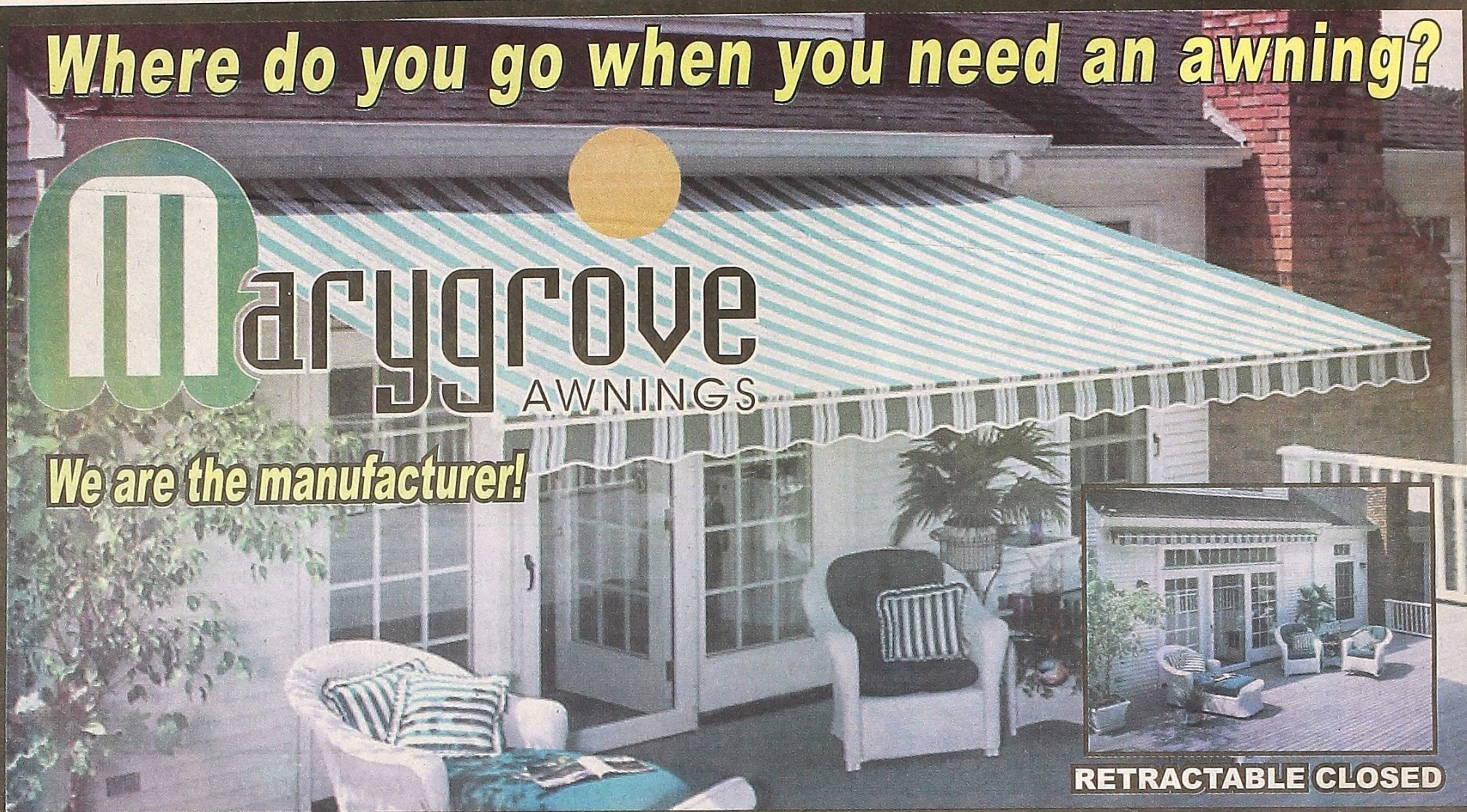
Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: March 17, 2005

Where do you go when you need an awning?



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RETRACTABLE CLOSED

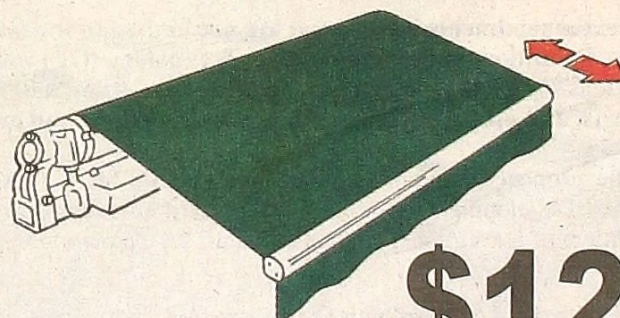
O'MARYGROVE SALE

"You'll save a pot of gold on a rainbow of colors at Marygrove this month. These prices are only for a wee bit of time"

- Mike Falahee
Owner

**SHOWROOM
HOURS:**
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**FOREST GREEN 12X10
Motorized
Retractable Awning**

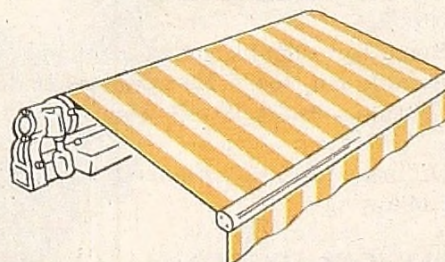


While Supplies last

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I-96 Jeffries to Merriman South, 1st light, turn left then turn right to the railroad tracks.

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